

Hafa Adai!

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IN TINIAN AIRPORT AIRSPACE RESTRICTION

FAA to study Navy request

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration has informed the Commonwealth Ports Authority that it will look into the Secretary of the Navy's request to restrict airspace on and around the Tinian International Airport.

» **CPA stands firm against proposal**



King-Hinds

In a letter to CPA board chair Kimberly King-Hinds dated Aug. 16, 2019, Angela R. McCullough, FAA Air

Traffic Organization Mission Support Services vice president, said that FAA will conduct aeronautical and environmental feasibility assessments—given the project's importance to national defense.

McCullough pointed out that the Secretary of the Navy's letter does not automati-

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REMEMBERING 9/11

Tomorrow, the CNMI community will be celebrating the "2019 We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" ceremony at the American Memorial Park at 5:30pm. The ceremony will be preceded by the Freedom Walk, which would begin at 5pm at the Garapan Fishing Base and would end at AMP.

IVA MAURIN

Lili Zhang Tydingco found guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

» **Jurors deliberate only for 2 ½ hours**

A federal jury took only about two and a half hours yesterday afternoon to unanimously find Lily Zhang Tydingco guilty

of harboring an illegal alien child. The offense carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

Tydingco appeared calm after a court staff read the verdict at 3:40pm. She just nodded her head when a Chinese interpreter explained the verdict to her.

She will be sentenced on

Nov. 15, 2019.

Tydingco remains at liberty until a federal prison facility is named for her. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe did not object.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona reminded Tyding-

See LILI on Page 4

PSS owed over \$12.4M

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

For the current fiscal year, the CNMI government was unable to meet the constitutional mandate that gives the Public School System at least 25% of

» **'We hadn't met constitutional mandate for PSS...yet'**

the general fund revenue.

PSS was supposed to get a budget of over \$42.8 million this fiscal year 2019. Saipan Tribune learned over the weekend that PSS is still owed over \$12.4 million in

See PSS on Page 4

Plea deal with cop found too lenient

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Deeming the terms of a plea agreement to be too lenient, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected the plea deal offered by the CNMI government to a police officer who is charged

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Real estate company Jiang Zheng Group, Inc. has gone a long way since starting on Saipan in 2016.

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WORLD

The streets are filled with smashed cars, snapped power cables, shattered trees and deep silence.

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LIFE & STYLE

A robust audience turned out to catch "It: Chapter Two" in movie theaters last weekend.

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Local

TSL Foundation leads 9/11 commemoration



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings Corporate Affairs Community Relations director Carline Sablan, fourth left, receives the ceremonial check donation from Triple J Saipan management and executives for the We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes.



The Sentry AI system monitors behaviors on campus and sends immediate photo alerts when there is any atypical behavior.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



The University of Guam is helping NTT Docomo test its latest AI technology, which may eventually improve the security of the campus.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

UOG-Docomo tie-up tests artificial intelligence bots

For the first time, artificial intelligence, or AI, cameras are being tested in the University of Guam Office of Information Technology under a collaboration with NTT Docomo Inc. through its Docomo 5G Open Partner Program, which provides global businesses and organizations with the latest 5G information, test environments, and partner workshops.

Since June, the IT office has served as a field partner for two Docomo proof-of-concept projects to verify the company's 5G network compatibility with different equipment and systems, including AI robots. The company opened a 5G center in Guam earlier this year.

One sophisticated AI learns over time how to automatically spot suspicious behavior through a CCTV (closed-circuit television) feed, while the other recognizes and tracks who is present and when.

"This collaboration with Docomo is an ideal fit for UOG," said Manny B. Hechanova, UOG's interim chief information officer. "We're always looking to innovate, be leaders in tech-



The PLEN Cube is programmed to remember people who cross its path and could potentially be used to track attendance.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

nology, and work with our community to test new approaches that will better serve the island and beyond."

The first application works by overlaying an AI system, developed by California-based startup company Smart Home Sentry Inc., on a live CCTV stream to study and differentiate movements. The AI captures and flags out-of-the-ordinary situations and sends a message or photo via alerts, either through SMS texts or email, as immediately as the incident happens.

The technology, for example, could differentiate between a person walking to the office during a regular working day versus someone sus-

picious with a covered face or carrying a weapon or someone who otherwise shouldn't be in an area.

For the second project, IT staff are testing the PLEN Cube, a camera robot specially programmed to track and remember people who cross its path. The facial-recognition technology, developed by the Japanese startup company PLEN Robotics Inc., is interactive and moves around a space to document who and when people are present. Dubbed as a portable personal assistant, the palm-sized robot features a smart camera and wide-ranging automation skills, including voice commands.

The primary objective with these technologies is to verify the AI's ability to operate on Docomo Pacific's 5G network versus its 4G network. The faster transfer rate of the 5G network allows cameras to transmit high-quality video to Sentry AI, which then recognizes activities and people by their body shape and walking patterns with higher accuracy, even when a face is not clearly visible.

But for UOG, the projects also serve as a trial run for possible use on campus. The PLEN Cube could be used to verify classroom attendance by teachers or exam prompters at a test site. And having an AI CCTV system could help identify potential threats around campus in real time, which would allow for quicker response times.

"With these projects, we're getting the opportunity to explore the capabilities and benefits of the latest AI technology, which may lead us to new ways to improve the security, safety, and function of our campus," Hechanova said.

The two proof-of-concept projects are expected to continue through January. (UOG)

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation and organizers of the We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes will kick off the series of ceremonies commemorating the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States tomorrow at the American Memorial Park.

The ceremony will start at 5:30pm and will be preceded by the Freedom Walk that will begin at the Garapan Fishing Base at 5pm and end at the AMP grounds, where U.S. flags have been posted since last Sunday.

U.S. flags have been on display, too at the Corporal Joe G. Charfauros Jr. Rota Veterans Memorial Park since last Friday. The island's ceremony to honor the memories of those who perished in the 9/11 attacks, the heroes that saved many lives on that day, veterans, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders will be held on Sept. 17 at 4pm.

Tinian will have its own ceremony, which has been

pushed back to Sept. 16 at 10:30am. Ceremonies on all three islands will feature a wreath dedication, gun salute, and speeches.

Meanwhile, Triple J Saipan and IT&E are among the sponsors of this year's We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes. Triple J is a heritage sponsor of the event, while IT&E is part of the stars and stripes supporters list.

"Triple J Saipan is proud to support this event in honor of our heroes. The notion to remember a 'hero'—someone who has given their time, energy, and in some cases, their life, placing the needs of others first, is an honorable gesture," said Triple J vice president for Finance and Administration Mike Sablan.

"Today and every day, we stand with our men and women in uniform. We are proud of our commitment to honoring and supporting our heroes," said IT&E Customer Operations executive director Rob Harrell.

Deleon Guerrero, 3 others granted parole

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole has granted the parole applications of Ezra Deleon Guerrero, George Langu, Laraad Ramangmo, and Nicholas Cabrera.

Deleon Guerrero was convicted of killing Korean businessman Jae Soung Shim in May 2009. He was convicted of first-degree murder and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

He claimed that he was under the influence of methamphetamine when he killed Shim. He wore a black ski mask and hit the victim on the back of the head several times with a stick and stole money in the cash register.

According to parole officer Jason Lizama, the BOP also

granted parole to Nicholas Cabrera.

Chief prosecutor John Bradley had opposed approving the parole for all the applicants as each have either violated their parole regulations or committed a serious crime.

Langu was charged with rape and is currently serving a 10-year prison term; he has already served about three and a half years of his sentence. Langu broke into a neighbor's home and raped his 16-year-old neighbor in 2016.

Ramangmo was arrested with Johnalyn Salas for burglarizing and ransacking an apartment on Navy Hill in May 2017. The two stole clothing, identification cards, cellphones, a laptop, passport, wallet, \$5,900 worth of Chinese currency, and \$510 cash.

Torres: Our DC office continues to work on CW woes

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres assured last Thursday morning that his office is continuing his work on the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program issues in the U.S. mainland.

With a view toward obtaining a possible reprieve on the looming impending exodus of foreign workers from the CNMI on Sept. 30, 2019, the governor assured that his office on Washington, D.C. is continuing its work with the White House on the issue.

"We are sensitive about it, but I know they will be meeting...again to press on the issue [about the] Sept. 30, 2019 [deadline]. I do know that there are some [private sector members] who did not submit their [CW-1] applications on time. There are some issues that we need to address and we are trying to address that," he said in a brief update on the matter.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently told *Saipan*

Tribune that they are hoping for a reprieve or deferred action that would allow foreign workers to stay and continue working in the CNMI once fiscal year 2020 starts on Oct. 1, 2019.

They also sent a letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) last Aug. 26 requesting for immediate action, as well as some recommendations for amending U.S. Public Law 115-218, the law that effectively extended the CW program for 10 years.

CNMI Department of Labor Vicky Benavente told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that she largely concurred with the contents of the letter.

Separately, in a letter dated Aug. 17, 2019, an informal group of over 200 CW workers met with the governor to ask for a reprieve from the Sept. 30, 2019, deadline, when majority of CW workers are believed to exit the CNMI.

The letter incorporated a

request for reprieve and even deferred action for those who are struggling with the U.S. Department of Labor side of the CW petition renewal. The letter was also reportedly sent to the Washington delegate, but Sablan did not confirm receipt with *Saipan Tribune*.

The new requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor are reportedly the cause in the current delays in CW-1 renewal applications. However, according to a statement from the delegate's office, it noted that the sheer number of applicants, which were submitted during the processing period for H-1B visas, is causing the bottleneck.

His office noted that during his meeting with USDOL and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, they confirmed the average processing time of 41 days for a temporary labor certification—including the 21 days needed for job vacancy announcement postings. (*Erwin Encinares*)

Rainy weather seen this week

Warning: Wet weather ahead.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the Marianas will experience an unsettled wet pattern through the end of the week.

Scattered showers, with brief periods of numerous

showers, are expected through the week with heaviest rainfall possible Thursday and Friday. Latest trends indicate rainfall amounts will be less than previously expected, with latest model guidance indicating 3 to 5 inches are possible through Friday. If conditions

warrant, this outlook will be updated or flood warning or advisories will be issued.

Due to the drought earlier this year, localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged. If planning anything outdoors this week, have a backup plan in place. (*EOC*)



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From Page 1

co, though, that she is already convicted and she is required to comply with her temporary release conditions.

In an interview after the verdict, defense counsel Bruce Berline said they are going to file post-trial motions and an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

"We disagree with the verdict but we'll take that up with the appellate court," he said.

Berline said it's good, however, that his client remains at liberty for now.

Backe refused to comment on the verdict.

The trial started last Wednesday. The prosecution called six witnesses; the defense called two.

Last Thursday, a woman who was convicted in 2001 for engaging in a sham marriage with a Bangladeshi national took the witness stand for the U.S. government.

Rebecca Lynn Castro testified that Tydingco attempted to pay her \$10,000 years ago



This file photo shows Lili Zhang Tydingco taking a smoke break after a federal court hearing during her first trial in 2016.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

to fake-marry a Chinese alien so he could have a permanent resident status.

Castro also said Tydingco offered to buy her a plane ticket last month, so she could leave the CNMI and not testify in the retrial.

The U.S. government's sixth and last witness last Thursday was the Chinese girl

herself—the alleged harbored illegal alien. She is now 15 years old.

After the girl's testimony, Backe recalled to the stand Homeland Security Investigation Task Force officer Jesse Dubrall, who was the U.S. government's first witness.

The four other witnesses were U.S. Customs and Bor-

der Protection officers Trishia Aguon and Ronald Atalig Muna, HSI special agent Nicole Sively, and Rebecca Lynn Castro.

Last Friday, Berline called to the witness stand Maria Torres and Ting Jin Tang.

After the prosecution rested its case Friday morning, Berline moved for judgment of acquittal. Manglona denied the motion. Berline then called the defense's two witnesses.

During Thursday's trial, outside the presence of the jury, Backe informed the court that witness Castro will be invoking her Fifth Amendment right.

In 2001, the Superior Court sentenced Castro to a three-month sentence, suspended for a period of six months, for fake-marrying a Bangladeshi national in 1999. The Bangladeshi national fled the CNMI before he could be summoned to court for the same offense as Castro's.

Berline said that Tydingco's case involves alleged harboring of an illegal alien—not a case about marriage fraud. Because Castro was not a witness to the charge of harboring an

alien, such evidence cannot be used to show "consciousness of guilt," Berline said.

Castro testified that Tydingco attempted years ago to pay her \$10,000 just to marry a Chinese national in order for him to get a permanent resident status. Castro said the marriage did not push through and that she did not get the money.

Castro said that Tydingco came to her house thrice last month. At first, she was scared after the defendant told her that her lawyer wants to talk to her "to guide her."

Castro said that during the second visit, she refused Tydingco's request as she is not supposed to talk to a lawyer.

Castro said it was during the third visit that Tydingco offered to buy her plane ticket so she could leave the CNMI and not testify. Castro said she refused the offer because she already has a good life.

During Berline's cross-examination, Castro said she was taking methamphetamine or "ice" before and that she has been sober for four years.

Castro admitted that she

was taking "ice" when she was talking with Tydingco regarding the offer years ago to engage in a fraudulent marriage with the Chinese national.

In June 2016, a federal court jury found Lili Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an alien and her husband, Francisco Tydingco, guilty of aiding and abetting the harboring.

In December 2016, Manglona sentenced Lili Tydingco to 10 months' imprisonment with credit for time served. She sentenced Francisco Tydingco to 21 months imprisonment, with credit for time served.

The Tydingcos appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse their conviction and vacate their sentences.

In 2018, the Ninth Circuit reversed the convictions and remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial.

Last May, a superseding indictment was subsequently filed against Lili Tydingco. The U.S. government then dropped the case against Francisco Tydingco. The court granted the motion.

FAA

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cally result in the approval of the airspace proposal but merely initiates the feasibility studies.

McCullough disclosed FAA's action in response to King-Hinds' letters to FAA and the U.S. Navy on June 21, 2019, making known CPA's strong opposition to the Navy's plan.

The U.S. Navy wants to include the airspace around the Tinian International Airport in the restrictive area of a divert landing strip it plans to build on the island.

King-Hinds told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that FAA has been one of CPA's strongest

federal partner and has invested millions of dollars in the infrastructure in all three airports in the CNMI.

King-Hinds said she understands the FAA's need to conduct the feasibility assessments when a request is made that invokes national security.

She said CPA is ready to participate in this process and to provide any information the FAA would need in doing the assessments.

In CPA's letter to FAA, it raised serious concerns about the proposed restrictions and its impact on Tinian and the CNMI.

"We stand firm in our opposition and we will continue to raise our objections and advocate on behalf of the

people of Tinian who have made it clear that restricting airspace on and around Tinian would adversely impact the wellbeing, health, economy, and safety of the community," King-Hinds said in the letter to FAA.

McCullough told King-Hinds that the FAA met with Navy and Marine Corps representatives last May 23 to discuss the airspace proposal. McCullough assured that the safety of the national airspace "is our priority, and we endeavor to balance the needs of our airspace users and make for fair use of this finite resource."

In making a final decision on the creation of a "special use airspace," McCullough

said the FAA must take into account aviation safety and environmental law compliance, optimum use of the airspace, and equitable access for all national airspace users.

Last July, the CPA board of directors unanimously passed a resolution opposing the U.S. Navy's request. The directors agreed that the removal of airspace protections over the Tinian International Airport creates many issues that the Navy failed to discuss or consider with CPA prior to the Navy sending its request.

Navy Secretary Richard W. Spencer requested the FAA administrator last April 30 for unspecified but appropriate "relief" in the airspace protections over the Tinian airport.

PLEA

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with stealing snacks at a gas station in Susupe.

"The people of the CNMI deserve to have a safe community, and expect more from their law enforcement officers. There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment," said Camacho in rejecting the plea agreement offered to Koji Maurice Taisacan.

Camacho said the terms of the proposed plea agreement fails to impose a careful and individualized sentence that takes into account Taisacan's role as a police officer and his betrayal of public trust.

With the rejection, Taisacan's bench trial started yesterday.

The Office of the Attorney General has charged Taisacan with one count of theft, which is punishable by up to one year in prison.

Under the plea deal, Taisacan would plead guilty to theft; the OAG would recommend a suspended sentence of one year in prison, one year of supervised probation, a \$200 fine, \$25 in court costs, and \$120 in probation fee.

Taisacan will also be required to pay the Shell gas station \$2.45 in restitution for the Starbucks drink that was never recovered. He will also complete 50 hours of community service.

Taisacan, through his counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, argued that the terms of the plea deal are sufficient. But Camacho found the argument unpersuasive, saying the defendant

does not take into account that he allegedly committed the crime as a police officer.

In fact, Camacho noted, Taisacan is still currently employed as a police officer.

Camacho said that, although the amount of \$2.45 is relatively low, the more serious issue is that Taisacan committed the offense while on-duty as a police officer. He said the plea deal offered in the case suggests that Taisacan will serve no jail time, "can simply pay off his community service, and a fine of \$200."

Camacho said if he were to accept this plea deal, it would send a message that police officers can simply steal while on duty, and if caught, there would be little or no consequences such as doing jail time, or community service.

Camacho said with the terms of this plea agreement, there is no deterrence effect on Taisacan or any general deterrence to other law enforcement officers.

"There are many law enforcement officers who serve proudly and with integrity. One officer arrested for theft and does not receive the appropriate punishment gives the public image that officers are above the law," the judge pointed out.

According to the factual basis for the proposed plea deal, Taisacan stole two candy bars and a Starbucks drink with a value of less than \$250 from the Shell gas station in Susupe on June 12, 2019.

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. is counsel for the CNMI government.

PSS

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allotments.

Responding to *Saipan Tribune's* query if the CNMI government was able to meet the CNMI Constitution's mandate that entitles PSS to at least 25% of general fund revenue, Finance Secretary David Atalig said it had failed to do so.

Had the CNMI government been able to give PSS the over \$12.4 million it still owes PSS, that would have made the CNMI government compliant with the CNMI Constitution.

"Did we meet the 25% mandate, at this time, no. The remaining balances for PSS will meet the 25% mandate," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "If I'm not able to do so by [the]

end of fiscal year [2019], I still owe PSS the balance which will be carried over to the next year [fiscal year 2020]."

To address this shortfall somewhat, Atalig recommends distributing \$10 million from the annual casino license renewal fee to pay outstanding balances owed to several agencies—PSS included. He recommends reallocating \$3 million of the \$10 million to PSS.

However, the local delegations appear to have first dibs on that money. Finance recently received \$15,502,570 as payment for the annual license fee from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the exclusive casino license holder. As provided by Public Law 18-56 and as amended by P.L. 20-10, \$15 million of that amount shall be allocated to

the local delegations.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres dated Sept. 3, 2019, Atalig recommended that Torres use his powers, as authorized in the Emergency Disaster Declaration, to redirect \$10 million of the license fee to the general fund.

In the same letter, Atalig explained to Torres that there could be a possible shortfall of \$19 million by the end of fiscal year 2019, on Sept. 30, 2019, because of "natural disasters and labor conditions" affecting collections and business activity in the first half of the fiscal year. The natural disasters that came in the form of Typhoon Mangkhut for Rota and Super Typhoon Yutu for Saipan and Tinian disrupted the projections for fiscal year 2019. Soon after Yutu struck

in late October 2018, Torres imposed government-wide austerity measures.

Current law mandates that the \$15 million be split up among the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, and the Rota Legislative Delegation.

In his recommendation to Torres, Atalig suggests reallocating \$1 million each to the NMI Settlement Fund, Northern Marianas College, and the Marianas Visitors Authority. Another \$4 million would go to pending vendor payments, while the remaining \$3 million would go to PSS.

Atalig said \$3 million would be set aside for the Saipan delegation and \$1 million each for the Rota and Tinian delegations, respectively.

Finance: FY2019 expenses exceeded budget by \$63.8M

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government expenses in fiscal year 2019 exceeded the projected revenue by \$63.8 million, according to the Department of Finance, with disaster expenditures comprising more than half of the deficit.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres dated Sept. 3, 2019, Finance Secretary David Atalig said that total expenditures and obligations of the CNMI government, not including earmarks and transfers to autonomous agencies, stood at over \$220.58 million as of July 31, 2019.

"This amount exceeds budget allotments by \$63.8 million," Atalig told Torres. "Disaster expenditures account for 66% of the deficit."

In total, Atalig noted \$42.38 million in disaster expenditures, \$14.23 million for the Medical Referral Program, and \$4.93 million for the Department of Public Safety.

Atalig further noted that general government expenditures for the current fiscal year exceeded budget allotments by \$20.9 million.

For the CNMI's fiscal position, Atalig noted that it is currently experiencing fiscal constraints caused by several factors.

"In fiscal year 2018, the CNMI incurred deficit spending from the general fund of approximately \$19 million. The natural disasters experienced in September [Typhoon Mangkhut] and October [Super Typhoon Yutu] required the government to undertake extraordinary expenditures with \$42.4 million yet to be reimbursed by our Federal Emergency Management Agency partners," Atalig

wrote Torres.

"Current obligations of transfers-out [NMI Settlement Fund and autonomous agencies] and tax refunds are approximately \$36.7 million and \$11 million respectively," he added.

Expected shortfall

Atalig projects a possible shortfall of \$19 million in total by the end of fiscal year 2019.

"We began fiscal year 2019 with a strong economy and an improved financial position. However, due to natural disasters and labor conditions affecting business activity in the first half of the year, the CNMI is experiencing a slight economic contraction when compared to the same period last year," he noted.

"Forecasted collections for the remaining periods are not as robust, and we anticipate a revenue shortfall totaling \$19 million by the end of the fiscal year from earlier reports and analysis," he added.

From October 2018 through July 2019, Finance reported a total revenue collection of over \$174.36 million in fiscal year 2019, which accounts for 76% of collections projected for the year.

"This is still markedly short of targeted collection rate of 84%," Atalig noted.

Business gross revenue tax collections are at \$65.6 million, which falls short compared to fiscal year 2018 collections of \$69.1 million in the same period.

"If this trend continues, we can expect a shortfall of \$1.9 million at the end of the year," he said, emphasizing that the projection does not include BGRT collections from the casino.

Wage and salary tax collec-

tions total \$32.8 million and is a decrease of 9% for the same period during the previous fiscal year. Atalig predicts a shortfall of \$1.9 million from this resource.

NMI income tax collections for personal and corporate income are at \$1.9 million and \$3.2 million, respectively. "This category of tax was reduced from the original budget by \$6.5 million; however, a shortfall of \$5.9 million is predicted by the end of the year if the trend

continues," he noted.

He sees a silver lining, though. Atalig reported that there is a \$5-million increase in excise tax collections compared to the previous fiscal year, with a total collection of \$33.6 million. This comes with a catch, though.

"Projections remain on target in categories of cigarettes and beer and malt beverages. However, miscellaneous commodities are exhibiting unfavorable trends, with projected

losses of \$7.7 million from previous estimates," he said.

The hotel occupancy tax's steady rate of collection averaging \$1.2 million monthly is lower than the projected monthly collections of \$1.4 million and is likely to reduce CNMI resources by about \$2 million by the end of the fiscal year, he noted.

Poker and e-gaming licensing collection of over \$5.6 million is better than previous indicators by about \$1.8 million according to Atalig. "Conversely, miscellaneous fees, charges for services, and

other revenue sources are lower than expected by \$1.2 million," he added.

"...General collections are not as robust as previous years, with an expected shortfall of \$19 million. Our current outstanding obligations stand at just under \$84 million and are likely to grow in the foreseeable future. With your leadership, we can alleviate the financial pressures of the government and relieve some of the hardships experienced by residents and businesses of the CNMI," Atalig said.

» **Disaster-impaired collections show \$19M shortfall**

CK store robbed

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

An armed individual robbed the Suntinday store in Chalan Kanoa last Sunday and there is no word yet if the police has information that could help solve this case.

According to a Department of Public Safety statement yesterday, it said it received a 911 call at about 9:55am about a robbery incident at the store.

The caller, who is also the store's cashier, told police officers who responded to the scene, that she was near the store's main entrance when a young man pulled a knife and demanded money from her.

The cashier opened the cash register and gave the suspect the register's cash tray. The man then grabbed all the cash from the tray, while threaten-

ing the victim that he would kill her if she leaves the store. He then bolted from the store and fled south.

The victim described the suspect as of medium build, approximately 5'6" tall, wearing a black hoodie with a pink logo printed on the front, and a pair of gray short pants.

According to DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, they have not received any video footage from Suntinday on the day of the robbery and that detectives are still investigating the case.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the most recent robbery incident occurred last July 14 when two male individuals robbed a female tourist of her purse along Hotel Street. The suspects' car was identified through video footage and the suspects, Wilson Celeste and Carl Steven Aldan, were arrested on July 22.



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IT&E



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-033

REQUEST FOR FEE PROPOSAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from professional Archaeologist who meets U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data, and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) review with aim of completing Section 106 Review and generating archaeological expectations necessary for the proposed CUC waterline and sewerline projects proposed for FY 19. The selected consultant shall provide necessary assessment within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of the proposed waterline and sewerline installation satisfactory to the CUC, United States Environmental Protection Agency and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-033, Request for Fee Proposal for Archaeological Services" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Engineer for Water Division at email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS

ITB19-GOV-121

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST & TARPING SYSTEM for the TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist and Tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on September 1, 2019 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Thursday, September 5, 2019, 10:00 am ChST** at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before **Friday, September 13, 2019** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-121 Supply and Installation of Roll-off Truck with Cable Hoist & tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST September 30, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST September 30, 2019** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 30, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than October 9, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:00 a.m. ChST October 10, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST September 30, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

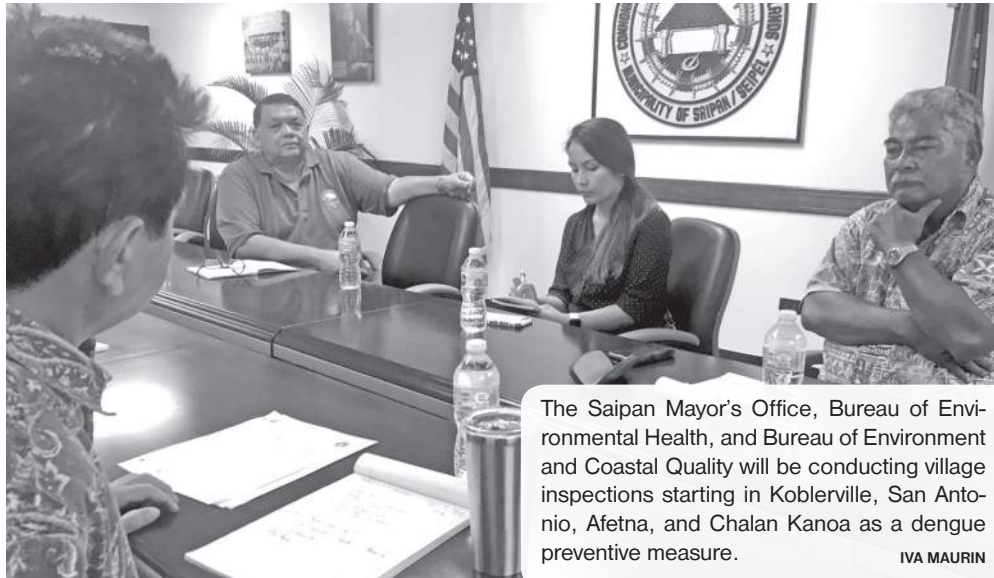
Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Village inspections to prevent dengue



The Saipan Mayor's Office, Bureau of Environmental Health, and Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality will be conducting village inspections starting in Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetna, and Chalan Kanoa as a dengue preventive measure.

IVA MAURIN

Believing that prevention is the best way to head off any health crisis, the Saipan Mayor's Office, together with the Bureau of Environmental Health and the Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality, will be conducting an islandwide inspection next week, starting in the south, to check for any place with stagnant water that could become a breeding ground for mosquitos.

In response to a report of a second case of dengue in the

CNMI, the village inspections, which the BEH team would be doing first, will begin in Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetna, and Chalan Kanoa.

Communities are being asked to clean anything within their perimeter that could hold water (anything that attracts vermin and rodents), collect and segregate their trash, and cooperate in this outreach campaign against mosquitoes and other potential vectors.

There are a lot of debris, construction metals, and other

materials that are either on the public easement or next to public easements.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang stressed, at a meeting yesterday with BEH and BECQ, the need for cooperation to prevent dengue from occurring on the island. "We need to work together, we want everyone to clean up."

BEH will also check water reservoirs in houses and do chlorine residue testing. BECQ has provided test kits to be used for these inspections.

"We will be concentrating not only on the trash education, but the water component too, to look into the water reservoir and things related to it. This is a good opportunity to reach out not only for dengue but for [public environmental health]," BEH director John Tagabuel said.

Homeowners are asked to cooperate in the dengue drive. The community should expect to see the BEH team going from household to household, to check on potential mosquito habitat. *(Iva Maurin)*

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP 19-CHCC/CGC-SOC-023

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM

"WRAPAROUND ASSESSMENT – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION – COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER/SYSTEMS OF CARE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN NOW DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP/INVITATION TO BID (ITB)) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SIDE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

Faith, Hope and
KARIDAT
Catholic Charities – Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Disaster Case Manager – Temporary

The Disaster Case Manager will provide disaster case management services to individuals and families impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu on the islands of Saipan and Tinian, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Disaster Case Manager is responsible for providing a wide variety of disaster recovery client services, including assessments, supportive services, information and referral, financial assistance, advocacy, and the development of long-term disaster recovery plans.

Qualification

- Bachelor's degree in the human service field of 4 years commensurate work experience in disaster services.
- Experience working disaster recovery or related case management.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with a wide diversity of people from different ethnic backgrounds.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- Proven computer skills including Word, Excel and other appropriate applications.
- Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma, resume, current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office at Old Sister Remedios Bldg.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019 AT 4:00PM

JOEY P. SAN NICOLAS
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net

Attorney for Petitioner Diego Joaquin B. Camacho

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE)
OF:) Civil Action
OF:) No.: 19-0277**

**DIEGO DLG.)
CAMACHO,) NOTICE OF
HEARING
Decedent.)**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF: DIEGO JOAQUIN DELEON GUERRERO CAMACHO, DECEASED.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition by Diego Joaquin Babauta Camacho for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 3rd day of October, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaslaw.net. Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, DIEGO JOAQUIN DELEON GUERRERO CAMACHO, or of his estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 5th day of September, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

DPL homestead applications down to 2,293 on Saipan

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the last three years since 2016, the Department of Public Lands has processed 630

homestead program applications on Saipan alone. That means that, as of last month, the 2,923 homestead applicants on Saipan since 2016 has been reduced to 2,293,

according to Public Lands Secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo.

In a presentation last week at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency

Saipan, Concepcion-Teregeyo said that DPL is also active in reviewing current homesteads and revoking homestead permits that have been awarded 15 years or more ago and no

home has been built on the lot—one of the requirements.

Homesteaders with structural damage on their house due to a storm are given extra time. “We go out and take photos of what the property looks like, and also after the storm. We have our own documents to indicate where we are at structure-wise before we revoke them,” Teregeyo said.

DPL issues warning notices to applicants before homesteads are revoked. When a homestead lot is revoked, homesteaders can appeal the revocation at the DPL hearing office.

The goal of the homestead program is to give land to

those of Northern Marianas descent. Homesteaders pay a \$50 permit and have to build a house on the lot within three years. The size and structure of the home does not matter, as long as there is a functioning restroom and a functioning kitchen.

DPL’s Homestead Division is one of the mandates of the CNMI Constitution. DPL is required to dispose of public lands which include the issuance of village and agricultural homesteads.

The DPL no longer issues agricultural homesteads in Saipan, but still does so in Tinian and Rota, and recently, on the island of Pagán.

Saipan welcomes cruise ship

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A cruise ship docked on Saipan last Sunday, bringing with it 1,097 guests who visited World War II sites throughout the island.

Once the group of tourists stepped ashore, they were greeted by local dancers, courtesy of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

According to Pacific Development Inc. managing director Gordon Marciano, the cruise ship was called the MS *Maasdam Holland America* and that PDI prepared for the ship’s visit for about a year and a half. Marciano said they provided the tourists individual packages to use for their leisure.

Some of the guests also availed of services through online bookings of rental cars, taxis, diving, and other private accommodations.

Marciano said that some of the tourists went shopping at the Joeten Shopping Center, Duty Free Saipan T-Galleria, I Love Saipan, and many more stores throughout the island.

The group was on island last Sunday for about eight hours and departed at around 5pm. He said that they were on their way to Guam and would be on their way to Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Islands until they reach their last stop in Sydney, Australia.

Based on the ship’s expected itinerary on its website, the ship has already left Guam

Café makes space for artists



Local artist Elina Gharti Chhetri and Jay Wolfe provide CNMI artists a space to display their artwork and get featured at the café, Marianas Creations, every first Friday of the month.

IVA MAURIN

CNMI artists have a new “gallery” where they can showcase their creations.

Local artist Elina Gharti Chhetri is providing a much-needed space for fellow artists on the island at Marianas Creations, a café-cum-local products shop that she co-owns with Jay Wolfe.

The art gallery concept will come to life during what Marianas Creations will be hosting as First Friday events—a popular concept in cities around the world, which are usually centered around supporting and encouraging local art and culture and introducing the community to it.

“We wanted to give people a regular opportunity each month to come and see local art, and also to meet and interact with the artists who are doing the art,” Wolfe said. “We want everyone to see some of the pretty incredible art that comes out of the Marianas.”

The café not only features the art of Greg Elliott, David

Butterfield, Jose Quan, and Shane Villanueva, among others, but also showcases products like bonita basula (beautiful trash), which are found glass pieces converted into jewelry. Chhetri also even creatively put together an art piece of a sink which is a surprise at the café.

Marianas Creations also plans to host paint nights, photography tutorials, and small classes like jewelry making or basket weaving.

“We want to bring any talent here out to the public. A lot of artists do not have their own shop or a storefront or a gallery, and that is hard,” Chhetri said. “We are doing First Fridays to share the space that we have, and bring all the community together.”

Catch the next First Friday at Marianas Creations, located along Micro Beach Road (beside Everest Restaurant). The café is open Monday to Sunday, from 6:30am to 9pm. (Iva Maurin)



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 <p>2017 TOYOTA RAV4 Super White, Mileage: 18,116, 4-cyl. Stock #U19081R NOW \$22,999*</p>	 <p>2017 Toyota RAV4 LE Silver Sky Metallic, Mileage: 22,882 4-cyl. Stock #U19053R NOW \$22,999*</p>	 <p>2017 TOYOTA RAV4 Dark Brown, Mileage: 20,287, 4-cyl. Stock #U19080R NOW \$22,999*</p>	 <p>2017 TOYOTA RAV4 Super White, Mileage: 18,533, 4-cyl. Stock #U19076R NOW \$23,199*</p>	 <p>2016 Toyota Highlander Moulin Rouge Mica, Mileage: 22,865, 4-cyl. Stock #U19050R. Was \$25,999 NOW \$24,499*</p>
 <p>2017 HIGHLANDER Celestial Silver, Estimated Mileage: 15,715 4-cyl. Stock #U19085R NOW \$25,499*</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Toyota Time sales event</p> <p>Now is the time to get up to \$1,500 CASH BACK! ON SELECT 4RUNNERS</p> </div>			 <p>2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER Shoreline Blue Pearl, Mileage: 17,139 4-cyl. Stock #U19082R NOW \$25,999*</p>
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DCCA launching recovery and art healing grant programs

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is preparing for the launch of three Recovery and Art Healing grant initiatives made possible through funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

According to CCAC director Parker Yobei, the art healing grants seek to bring the community together.

"The arts are an important part of our identity and this is one way to promote healing at a time where our entire community is still recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu. Although we have a few signature events our artists enjoy annually, these grants are direct assistance that our community can explore. We

certainly hope that this will help artists who've lost so much as well as help revitalize our community and promote growth in our arts and culture," Yobei said.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter noted that the art healing initiatives covered under the recovery grant will also ensure equal access to the arts.

"I have always strongly believed that our Commonwealth is home to great artists and artisans, which is why we encourage those registered under CCAC to look into available options and we invite new artists to take part in it. Through consistent collaboration with the NEA, we are all excited to begin the process of creating new art while improv-

ing the physical and mental wellbeing of our community," Hunter said.

Recalling the impact of the DCCA Canoe Project as well as similar non-profit initiatives, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the recovery grants offer unique financial and cultural support to indigenous and emerging artists.

"I have seen the positive impact of traditional arts in our community and I commend DCCA and CCAC for providing this opportunity for our local artists," Torres said. "The NEA's funding support ensures that we can strengthen the creative capacity of our community and integrate more cultural activity into our lives. I believe we should continue to foster and support creative

thought and artistic achievements as well as artists in need. Lt. Gov. [Arnold I.] Palacios and I encourage our community to take advantage of these opportunities and look forward to rebuilding our artistic and cultural traditions."

The CCAC Recovery Grants will cover fiscal year 2019-2020 with emphasis on:

■ **Public arts** (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota), which aims to unite artists and engage the community through public visual art displays. Public arts will also serve to enhance the beauty of the indigenous and diverse cultures in the CNMI through murals and structures. Public arts will provide an opportunity for reflection, the building of new communities, and reconnecting old ones.

■ **Artists recovery** (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota), which allows artists to apply for subgrants for losses of art materials from Super Typhoon Yutu. Applicants are required to submit proof of residency and must be a registered artist with CCAC.

■ **Healing arts** (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) which is focused on expressive arts such as music, drama, writing, movement/dance. Healing arts seeks to help reduce feelings of isolation, strengthen inter-island connection and create a sense of hope and optimism.

Arts-led initiatives can be a powerful tool as part of the recovery process, especially when basic essentials such as food and shelter have been secured and communities are looking to reconnect, reflect,

and express trauma in ways that words cannot do alone.

For more information about the Recovery Grant and Art Healing programs, contact CCAC at (670) 322-9982/3. (PR)

United is emerald sponsor of MINA's Green Gala

United Airlines has committed as an emerald sponsor for the 2019 Green Gala by donating this year's grand raffle prize of one roundtrip economy class ticket from Saipan via Guam/Honolulu to one of the many United destinations worldwide.

The prize ticket will be raffled at the event on Sept. 13, 2019, at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Paula Monk, United Airlines senior sales manager for Guam and Micronesia, said, "United Airlines is proud to support the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance in its vital work to conserve our region's natural resources and minimize impact on the environment. MINA's work to create a sustainable future aligns with United's commitment to environmental stewardship and our mission to be the most environmentally sustainable airline in the world. We thank MINA for their work in helping to keep our islands beautiful for generations ahead."

"The CNMI community and our islands' environment continue to benefit through the generous support of United Airlines," said Fran Castro, chairperson of MINA's board of directors. "Each year, United Airlines provides a roundtrip ticket from Saipan via Guam/Honolulu to any of United's worldwide destinations. MINA is very appreciative of their continued support of MINA's mission, and their contribution will bring much excitement to MINA's signature event."

The Green Gala pulls the community together to celebrate the successes of conservation efforts in the CNMI, as well as raises critical operational funds that enable MINA to continue its mission. The theme for this year is Bring Back Our Trees, a program that focuses on replanting on coastline restoration from the after-effects of typhoons Soudelor and Yutu.

As of yesterday, tickets to the event are all sold out, and MINA is extremely grateful for the outpouring of support for this event. (PR)

COTA awarded \$1.3M to expand Saipan bus system

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration recently awarded the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority under the Office of the Governor \$1.33 million for fiscal year 2020 to continue the development of the fixed-route system and demand response shared ride service.

The grant will be used to ensure the CNMI's public transportation system continues the progress it has made to provide transportation access and services for hard-to-reach areas around Saipan, said Alfreda P. Camacho, special assistant for

Public Transportation.

"Here at COTA planning, designing and constructing transportation projects as well as securing funding takes years, so we start with identifying needs, both immediate and anticipated. Planning remains critical, and the passionate individuals who make up the COTA team have been preparing a couple of projects to set the stage for addressing long-term needs with these new funds recently awarded to the program. My priority is to ensure that the COTA continues to progress forward with purpose and the

drive to improve on the current public transportation services while actively securing other resources to help expand and develop this program for the benefit of everyone living in the CNMI," Camacho said.

According to the FTA, the award—amounting to \$1,332,861—will be used to provide operating assistance and program administration funds for COTA to "continue to launch its 'first of its kind' fixed route and demand response shared ride service in addition to meet changes in demand for public transporta-

tion needs in the CNMI."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the grant award reflects the administration's commitment to progress for public transportation.

"By truly creating a public transportation system that is comprehensive and reaches the most underserved and vulnerable areas in our community, we are doing our part to provide services for our people while also freeing up funds in our local budget for other key priorities like education and healthcare," Torres said.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios

emphasized that public transportation is a crucial step in alleviating poverty.

"COTA is doing its part to making it easier for folks to find a job, go to their medical appointments, or attend classes at the Northern Marianas College. With the progress being made on our public transportation and within our Garapan Revitalization planning efforts, private sector partners are coming together to collaborate with us on a transportation system that can get people to job opportunities and visitors to our main economic attractions." (PR)

20 become certified Motherread/Fatheread teachers

Twenty community members from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota recently completed a course under a family literacy program administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

The completion makes them the ninth cohort of Certified Teachers for the Adult Course under the Motherread/Fatheread CNMI program since its start in the CNMI back in 1998.

Motherread/Fatheread is administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

The latest training, held on Aug. 20-22, was held in partnership with the CNMI Public School System and the Joeten-

Kiyu Public Library.

The group was comprised of individuals employed in the Public School System, Tinian and Rota Mayor's Office, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and parents who have participated in Motherread/Fatheread Adult Courses.

The 20 certified individuals are: Nakita Braganza, Helen Ann Bucher, David Bucher, Connita Camacho, Carrie Camacho, Rose Castro, Caitlyn Crisostomo, Javie Decena, Soley Marie Kaipat, Marjorie Harjani, Laura Manglona, Ivan Mereb, Emiliias Palacios, Heidi Posadas, Justise Quitugua, Ignacia Reyes, Vincent Sablan, Dorothy San Nicolas, Juvy Taitano, and Jinhui Jeong.

The 20-hour training was conducted at Aqua Resort Club and led by Motherread national trainers and literacy specialists Evelyn Machtinger and Gwendolyn Hinton, who have returned to the CNMI to teach and train the selected individuals with the copyrighted Motherread curriculum designed for children ages birth to 11.

It had been three years since the last certified training for Motherread adult courses.

The curriculum uses discussion questions and activities to foster creative thinking and problem-solving skills and nurture a love of books in the CNMI family.

Starting tuition to complete and become a Motherread/Fatheread CNMI Certified Teacher for Adults is at \$725 per person. Funding for the ninth cohort of the Motherread/Fatheread Institute was provided by Northern Marianas Humanities Council in partnership with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguigan. Additionally with completing the Motherread/Fatheread Institute, each participant received two college credits from North Carolina State University.

Motherread/Fatheread CNMI has been implemented for over 20 years. To see more from Motherread/Fatheread, like it on Facebook at CNMI Motherread/Fatheread and follow it on Instagram (@cnmi-motherread). Its office is located at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library or call program coordinators Beth Demapan and Cassandra Deleon Guerrero at 235-7319/783-7678/285-2279 or email read.cnmi@gmail.com. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twenty community members from Saipan, Tinian and Rota recently complete a Certified Teachers for the Adult Course under the Motherread/Fatheread CNMI program at the Aqua Resort Club.



OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION Independent Living Older Blind Program (ILOB)

Independence is the *Goal*

The ILOB Program serves individuals who are legally blind or severely visually impaired whose corrected vision in the better eyes is 20/70 or worse.



**VISION
IMPAIRED**



**55 YEARS
OR OLDER**



**GOAL:
TO LIVE
INDEPENDENTLY
AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE**

Our federally - funded ILOB Program provides independent living services to individuals with visual impairment ages 55 years and older to assist them in maintaining their independence at home and in their communities.



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Call 322-6537/8

OR visit us at: ovrgov.net

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

DeSantis proved himself a steady, strong leader in his first hurricane

On the job eight months, Gov. Ron DeSantis displayed the steady and reassuring leadership of a tested veteran in preparing Florida for Dorian.

Guiding this massive and disconnected state through the life-threatening emergency of a Category 5 hurricane is one of the most stressful and important responsibilities of a Florida governor.

It's frightening. The reality is that it's one of the few things that we as Floridians all experience together, and we rely on one person to set the tone and direction: the governor, communicating clearly, forcefully and compassionately.

All of us who remember Andrew, Opal, Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne, Wilma and Irma may forget that the state's relentless population growth means there are always lots of people here who are experiencing a hurricane for the first time.

Clutching our TV remotes, desperate for accurate information, we depend on strong, steady leadership, and DeSantis provided it.

This is how government is supposed to work. There's no handbook on how to do it. But DeSantis, a former prosecutor, Navy veteran and Harvard-educated lawyer, was prepared, and he made a strong impression on county emergency managers who are on the front lines of response and recovery.

Unlike his predecessor, Rick Scott, DeSantis did not appear compelled to control all storm-related communication. His willingness to share the spotlight with others was a sign of self-assurance.

As preparations took shape, Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez made several appearances on Spanish-language radio and TV in South Florida, as did former Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera.

But DeSantis also allowed his emergency management secretary, Jared Moskowitz, to do press interviews. And First Lady Casey DeSantis, an accomplished TV anchor, recorded a social media message in the same measured tone as her husband. "Florida is our home. It is hard to leave," she said. "But your safety comes first."

Speaking of safety, DeSantis largely deferred to local emergency managers to lead the call on evacuations, unlike Scott, who was much more aggressive in encouraging Floridians to heed evacuation calls. "Get out now," Scott told residents two years ago during Irma. More than 6 million people wound up leaving their homes that year—many stuck on interstates for worrisome hours on end—in what became the largest civilian evacuation in Florida history.

DeSantis also allowed reporters to monitor daily conference calls among local disaster officials that are often filled with vital nuggets of information. A modest gesture, to be sure, but a positive step.

Reporters were also allowed to monitor DeSantis' phone calls with legislators, something never provided in the previ-

See **DESANTIS** on Next Page



A gift to the past and the future

Social media posts lamenting catastrophic devastation at the remote settlement of Hope Town on Elbow Cay in the Bahamas used the same words to describe the place, and "magical" surely made the top three.

The heart-clenching descriptions began as photographs and videos slowly made their way out of the Abacos, a group of islands nearly sunk by that bully Hurricane Dorian sitting atop them punching with 220 mph wind gusts.

But some expressed their sorrow more practically as this fellow did: "I want to pack my chainsaw, machete and a bundle of MREs and head down there ... I wish I could be there to help."

That's what Hope Town does. It grabs you, and it doesn't let go until you fall in love.

Oh, Hope Town has all the picturesque charm of a postcard: A red and white candy-striped lighthouse built in 1864 shines on the narrow mouth of Hope Town Harbour, narrow streets accommodate only walkers and golfs carts, and the colors of houses match the world around—the cherry pinks and hibiscus yellows of sunsets, the turquoise of the sea, the billowy white of the clouds.

The real reason people come here is to drink in the beauty (and other tropical pineapple-topped delights) and heal themselves from the bruises of civilization.

Elbow Cay is an 8-mile-long hunk of coral, part of 500 miles of islands making up the Bahamas, starting off the eastern coast of South Florida.

The archipelago is a near neighbor geographically but a planet away in other aspects, unless you go to a swanky resort in Nassau or Freeport to gamble away your time and watch other perfectly tanned tourists admire themselves and one another in the flawlessly clear waters of a chlorinated pool.

The real Bahamas is found on the other 698 islands, where only six settlements have populations exceeding 1,000 each. Hope Town is not one. Fewer than 500 people live there.

Little is made or grown in places like Hope Town. Nearly everything is shipped in—less than 1% of the land is arable—so if it's a heavy item, it costs big bucks. A box of Cheerios, for example, is nearly the same price as it is here, but the price of a liter of milk—that's about a quarter of gallon—is \$4.

The best-ever Bahamian retail outlet was the lime-green "pharmacy" in Hope Town in the late 1990s where a couple of shelves tacked to the walls of a 6-by-6-foot wooden shack was secured by a padlock at night. Hours of operation were variable. Well, actually, optional. Is it still there?

Water is at a premium. Most Hope Town folks have elaborate systems for collecting rain from metal roofs and storing it in cisterns. It's entertaining to watch the faces of those learning the source of water they've been drinking and putting it together with the toileting habits of doves that roost on the roofs at night.

By **LAUREN RITCHIE**

Orlando Sentinel



Material things are still few in the Out Islands where tourism and fishing make up most of the economy. But any visitor will be struck by what Bahamians possess that Americans lack.

We may have six types of fabric-softener dryer sheets at Publix, but they have home-baked bread daily in Hope Town. They have a commitment to education amid the relative economic poverty. The per-capita income in the Bahamas is \$29,790 compared to \$60,200 in the U.S. Yet, each little settlement has a school, and the literacy rate is 96%. Here? 86%.

And the Bahamas is rich with intangibles impossible to count. Once, while visiting the island of Eleuthra—Dorian gave it a swift kick, too, as he blew by—during the 30th anniversary of the nation's independence from Great Britain, we stood at the back of a crowd watching dignitaries seated on metal folding chairs, waiting to speak.

One of four preachers on the program was winding down a long prayer, and a half-dozen kids were milling around behind us. They weren't rude or loud or disturbing anyone. They just weren't participating. A reserve police officer strolled over.

"Where are your parents? You should be sitting with your parents. Go on down there and sit by them," he said, pointing to the spectator seats.

They yes-sirred him and did what they were told.

In Hope Town, everyone recognizes that they have a stake in the community. Violence is rare. So is locking a house. There's no jail. Hope Town has a clinic. Sometimes the nurse is in. Nobody has their pediatrician on speed-dial.

Today, Hope Town Volunteer Fire & Rescue—it's a miniature engine that easily navigates the 8-foot-wide streets—is managing cleanup and relief efforts. And in case you're wondering, the Hope Town lighthouse built while America was fooling with the Civil War still stands and operates, giving Dorian a proper nose-thumbing.

Americans talk about simplifying their lives. Is it even possible where every supermarket offers dozens of choices of laundry detergent, for example? Powder or liquid? With bleach or without? Fragrance-free or scented? Biodegradable? Brand name? Generic? Dozens of decisions await in every aisle.

See **GIFT** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wills and trusts: Planning for the inevitable

Last time we braved through a topic no one likes to think about—what happens if we become incapacitated. In particular, we discussed what questions we should answer before we become incapacitated and the type of documents where those answers should be recorded.

In brief, we should create at least two documents: A financial power of attorney appointing someone to handle our finances and a medical power of attorney designating someone to make our medical decisions and instructing them how we want common situations to be dealt with. Doing so is beneficial both because it increases the likelihood that our wishes will be known and followed, and because it reduces intra-family conflict, especially in instances where the family cannot agree on how to handle our incapacitation.

This week we will cover an even less pleasant topic—what happens when we die.

If we do nothing, then the CNMI's intestacy law will decide what happens to our property when we pass away. Sometimes that's fine. Other times it means that people we don't want to inherit our wealth will.

Not making a decision also means that some (but not all) of our property will normally need to go through probate before our heirs will officially own it. I say some, not all, because bank accounts and retirement accounts where we've designated a beneficiary will pass automatically. And so too does real estate in limited circumstances.

The probate process involves a person (usually one of our heirs) initiating a probate proceeding with the court. To do so, this person will ask to be appointed as administrator. Following the appointment, they will give the court an inventory of everything we own plus a list of all known creditors. They will also post a notice of the proceedings in the newspaper in addition to contacting all known creditors in person or by mail. If there are no creditors and the heirs are playing nice, the probate will wrap up within a few months. But if disputes arise, the probate can take years and tens of thousands of dollars

in legal fees to conclude.

If we want more control over what happens to our property when we pass, another option is a will. Having a will does not eliminate the need for probate, but it enjoys many benefits over letting the legal system decide who gets what.

To survey some of the key benefits: First, we decide how our estate will be distributed. So, for instance, if we want one person to get more, we can do that. And if we want someone to get less or even nothing, we can do that too. This point is especially valuable if we have non-traditional families such as if there are unofficially adopted kids. In those cases, the result we want and the outcome that the law dictates will often be different.

Another advantage of a will is that it speeds up the probate process while also reducing intra-family conflict. Each result flows from the same reason: Our wishes are known. This makes the court's job easier while reducing opportunities for our family to fight over our property.

A third benefit is that we can reduce estate taxes, which means less of our property goes to the tax man and more of it goes to our heirs. But given current estate-tax exclusions, this last benefit only applies to a wealthy few. The rest of us can largely ignore estate taxes under the present rules.

For most people, a will is enough. But some people may benefit from taking their estate planning up a notch. For these people, a trust would be better.

What kind of people should investigate whether one of the many forms of trust are right for them? First, people who want to avoid the delays and publicity of probate. Unlike passing property via a will or under intestacy rules, each of which is a matter of public record available for anyone to review, property transferred through a trust doesn't need to go through probate. Thus, it's normally private and faster than probate proceedings.

Second, people who own real estate in more than one jurisdiction—for example, if they own land in both the CNMI and

By JORDAN SUNDELL

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business and real-estate law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate and small business—are published every other Tuesday. jsundell@jzgroupinc.com.

Guam. In these cases, the estate would have to go through two probates, first in the CNMI and then again in Guam. A trust would bypass both proceedings.

Third, people who have children with more than one partner. The reason here is that children from the earlier partner(s) often get cut out of the estate by the most-recent partner. A well-crafted trust can prevent this outcome.

Fourth, people who want to protect their wealth from creditors (this concept is often called asset protection). For instance, let's say we own an apartment building, a tenant injures themselves on the property, sues us, and wins. Because the amount won in these cases is often unreasonably high, savvy people use the law to put barriers between themselves and the lawsuit, so that it will be harder for the tenant to collect the full amount that they won in the lawsuit. Creating a trust allows us to deploy asset-protection strategies to shield our heirs and beneficiaries from a host of scenarios.

To learn more about planning your estate, and how to best tailor it to your situation, speak with a professional today.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Hopwood to Tarpwood

As an 8th grade student at Hopwood Middle School, I am here to voice my anger, frustration, and sorrow with how Hopwood is being neglected. Students are not being put first; Hopwood has become a last priority. Our school hours have been cut to seven hours with the addition of biweekly half-days on Friday. The insides of tents are impossible to clean, leaving us with an undesirable, dirty learning environment. The asphalt walkways become overly crowded and there are no shade unless you huddle up against a tent. I believe the "campus" is not suitable for teachers, students, and staff alike, whether in terms of physical, mental, or emotional health.

My day begins with waking up at 6am to arrive at my bus stop before seven. I ride the overcrowded bus and, depending on the time of arrival to school, I usually end up waiting outside in the heat before being let into class for breakfast. Teachers have had to make accommodations to the shorter class periods by implementing ways to save time. Transitioning from class to class after

breaks has proved to be difficult because of how crowded they become, bumping into one another and the constant accidental shoving. In one instance, a student fell into a flooded ditch due to the crowd. Breaks become unbearably hot because there is nowhere to go other than under the burning sun unless students are able to escape into a classroom. After schools are even worse with the tsunami of students trying to make it to their mode of transportation.

Those tents are not a place for students to learn nor is it a place for teachers to teach. That "campus" is not made to withstand the use of roughly around 1,000 students. It has already begun to break down. In the first days of school, we were told these tents would last at most a decade, but I think that would be the case if it were in a place that weren't rat-infested, dusty, and windy to the degree that it is now. With no shade outside of classes, the extreme temperature changes of the heat outside and cold inside is really unhealthy for the body. In these cases, students are more prone

to getting sick or passing out, the former of which is what I have experienced multiple times since being relocated to Kobler. I can only speak for myself as a student and for other students, but I like to believe that teachers, being humans, share similar experiences.

Also, this campus cannot adapt to those with disabilities or students with special needs, forcing them to attend other schools as there are no ramps, etc. And when the tents can no longer be used, what will they do with us then? The administrators don't have a plan of action for us (or at least to my knowledge), so teachers have to take matters into their own hands. And I do to. I will not let them throw us aside. We don't want your empty words; we want to see things being done. I want them to do something now because I am tired of them pushing us aside or at least come together to work hard and start creating a solution. It's time to stop putting the government and their "wants" first, but our students and their needs. At least I like to believe it when our role models say that "we" the students are "the future of the CNMI."

Emma Chong
Garapan, Saipan

DESANTIS

From Page 10

ous administration. And as a result, journalists were better able to quickly tell you what was going on.

After this lumbering monster of a storm inflicted unimaginable destruction and despair on the Bahamas, it swerved to the right, and a hurricane-weary state breathed an almost au-

dible sigh of relief.

While DeSantis showed strong and decisive leadership, it's too soon to give him a definitive grade for his performance.

Important tests lie ahead, such as the unnecessarily long waits to process insurance claims and the struggle by cities and counties to pay recovery costs while they await relief from state and federal governments.

Floridians also deserve to know why, two years after Irma and the preventable deaths of 12 elderly residents at a Hollywood

nursing home, many nursing homes still don't comply with a state law requiring homes to have backup generators. The owners of these homes are putting people's lives in danger. It's time they're held accountable.

To be sure, there will be another hurricane, and another and another. At the bow of the ship this past week, DeSantis proved that in an emergency, you can have confidence in him.

(c)2019 Sun Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)

GIFT

From Page 10

In Hope Town, there is no choice. The largest of its three groceries, run by a dude named Vernon, is slightly smaller than a bedroom. If he has detergent today, you're a lucky shopper. Shut up and buy it. Or, take family-owned Albury's Ferry Service for \$30 round trip to Marsh Harbour for better selection.

Oh, wait. Hope Town's "Bulletin" page on Facebook reports that the ferries sank in the storm, and photos by news organizations show nearly all of Marsh Harbor was destroyed. The airport remains under water.

Maybe it's not the people who make Hope Town so enchanting. Maybe the remoteness of the tiny paradise does it, the lack of reliable communication, the sense of self-reliance. Maybe those folks would be material, mean and rootless if they lived in Florida.

Or not.






Hope Town was last hit badly by a hurricane when Floyd visited 20 years ago, in September 1999. It was nothing like this 10th circle of Hell created by Dorian.

The anguish on Facebook from Americans is a collective wail of fear that bewitching Hope Town will lose its unique allure, that Dorian will end a way of life our culture always has glorified but no longer can have.

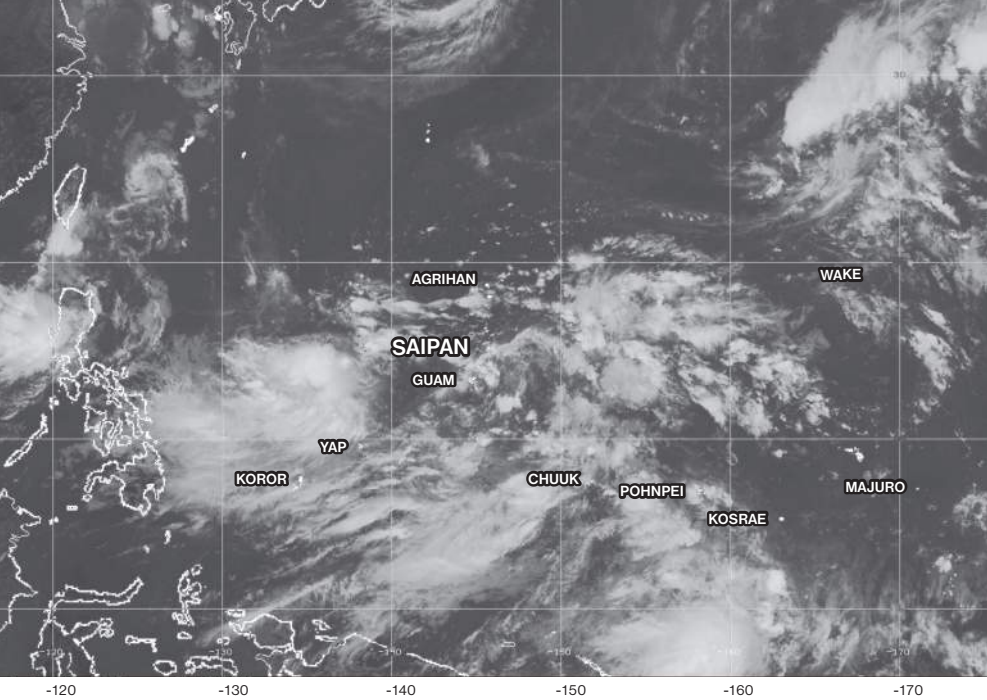
We can only envy it—and help them rebuild.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.		Breezy. Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 20 to 25 mph.		Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	89°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen across Tinian and Saipan waters, with only isolated showers evident across Guam and Rota. Mostly cloudy skies with gentle to moderate winds prevail across the region. Latest buoy observations show seas between 3 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 50°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 78°	
London	Showers	68° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	79° / 65°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	77° / 68°	
Osaka	Thunderstorm	91° / 75°	
Paris	Cloudy	73° / 59°	
Busan	Thunderstorm	81° / 73°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 71°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 54°	
Seoul	Showers	81° / 66°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	88° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 69°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:18 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.63	
11:31 AM	LOW TIDE	0.13	
6:39 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.78	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:37 AM	3:53 PM
Wednesday	-	3:28 AM	4:37 PM
Thursday	-	4:18 AM	5:18 PM
Friday	-	5:07 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	-	5:54 AM	6:34 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
				2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
				2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

JZ Group hits pay dirt with Aldan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Real estate company Jiang Zheng Group, Inc. has gone a long way since starting on Saipan in 2016.

And much of its success can be attributed to its staff and at the top of that list is Jocelyn A. Aldan.

Now the company's acquisitions manager, Aldan was JZ Group's very first employee and has mirrored its meteoric rise from a shaky start-up to now arguably the island's No. 1 real estate company.

"Jocelyn was my first island hire. When she started, she didn't know anything about real estate. But she had a hunger to learn and a willingness to try. So, I gave her a chance. And what a bet! She's been instrumental in JZ Group's growth from a tiny office into the island's premier real-estate business," said company owner Huafeng "Eric" Guo.

Aldan herself still can't believe how JZ Group has grown in the past 3 and ½ years.

"I have been working with the company since it started in 2016. We began in a tiny 10x10 office in Garapan with only myself, a colleague, and Mr. Eric," she said.

Before getting hired, Aldan was a stay-at-home mom and worked at odd jobs. In the course of working at JZ Group, she has already closed more than a million square meters worth of deals.

"That's a long way from an early career of selling products at a store counter," she said.

Guo is happy for Aldan's success, which he says is a testament to her work ethic and perseverance.

"Jocelyn started at the bottom. And now she regularly manages six- and seven-figure deals. That's a tribute to her growth mindset and willingness to embrace challenges day after day. I'm excited to see what's next. In the last three years, Jocelyn has grown so much that sometimes I barely recognize her. She has developed into an exceptionally confident and competent professional," he said.



Aldan

Working in real estate, however, is no walk in the park, according to Aldan. In a nutshell, her job calls for her to negotiate with different types of people, fix property deficiencies, and troubleshoot to be able to help both the buyer and company complete the land transaction.

"Every day is different. In the process, I've learned so much about real estate and business. Some days I focus on looking for property. Other days I'm talking to lawyers and government agencies about how to fix problems with the properties I find. And other times, as an acquisition specialist, I split my time between looking for property, negotiating with people, and solving problems related to those properties," she said.

Aldan said there's really no secret to being good in a job or any career for that matter once you put your mind to it.

"I work hard, enjoy my job, and love navigating the problems that life throws at me. I embrace deadlines and surprises and get stuff done any way. If you do that long enough, you can't help but be successful," she said.

Aside from helping her get a jump-start in a career in real estate, working at JZ Group

has also given Aldan new experiences not only in her line of work but also in life in general.

"The company has brought a lot of new friends and relationships into my life. I'm grateful for all of those connections. Working for the company has also been an awesome education. I've learned about business, I've

learned about real estate, and I've learned about China and its people, language, and culture," she said.

Her advice to people just joining the workforce is both pithy and simple: Don't be afraid.

"The start of your career is the perfect time to take chances and explore. So challenge yourself and, when in doubt,

take a deep breath and leap anyway," she said. "Worst case is that you learn and best case is that you find something great. Your future self will thank you for picking growth over comfort."

Being fearless is exactly what's endeared Aldan to JZ Group, especially to Guo.

"Jocelyn has grown by

leaps and bounds. In the process, she's become an incredible asset. Jocelyn has a great attitude for success. She's always trying, learning, and getting better. She doesn't let fear stop her. She acts in spite of the fear," he said.

For Aldan the sky is the limit on what JZ Group and she can accomplish in the local real estate industry.

"The company is growing, and I'm excited to grow with it," she said.

UK worries Brexit could bring 'chlorinated chicken' from US

NEW YORK (AP)—Could Brexit bring America's "chlorinated chicken" to the United Kingdom?

The European Union has long refused to import poultry from the United States that is routinely rinsed with chemical washes to kill germs. But the United Kingdom's planned exit from the EU is putting the practice back in the spotlight, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson even taunting Labor Party leader Jeremy Corbyn by calling him a "chlorinated chicken."

The term has come to sum up concerns that Britain could be pressured to accept looser

food safety standards when negotiating its own post-Brexit trade deals.

Unlike in the EU, the use of antimicrobial sprays and washes is widespread in the U.S. chicken industry. Companies apply them to kill germs at various stages during processing, such as when carcasses are de-feathered, gutted or any other point when feces could splatter and spread germs like salmonella. The chemicals used in rinses have to be approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and their use is limited to specified amounts. The agency says the rinses are

present in finished products at insignificant levels.

The U.S. chicken industry says the use of chlorine has declined to about 10% of the country's plants, as other chemicals have become more common. It says the rinses help improve food safety, but that it's difficult to completely rid raw chicken of salmonella and campylobacter germs, which don't sicken birds and are commonly found in their guts.

Campylobacter (kam-pih-loh-BAK'-tur) isn't widely known in the U.S. but is a major cause of food poisoning.

Critics of food safety regu-

lation in the U.S. say the use of antimicrobial washes and sprays underscores how widespread the bacteria are in raw chicken, especially considering the persistence of food poisoning outbreaks. Tony Corbo of Food and Water Watch, a group that has called for stricter meat regulations, said the rinses could be used to mask broader sanitary problems during production.

Though it's legal to sell raw chicken with salmonella and campylobacter in supermarkets, the USDA tries to control germs with standards on how much can be in the raw chicken tested at processing plants. The salmonella standard is around 10% for whole bird carcasses, and about 15% for raw chicken parts, which have a higher chance of being exposed to feces during chopping.

It's why health officials stress the need for safe handling of raw poultry, such as thoroughly cooking the meat to kill potential germs. They also warn people should not rinse raw chicken, which can spray bacteria everywhere.

Germs in raw chicken are an issue in the U.K. too. Health officials have been working to lower rates of campylobacter, which is the most common cause of food poisoning in the country. But testing in 2017 found its presence in more than half of raw chicken sold in stores.



AP

In this Thursday, Aug. 8, 2019, file photo, chickens are shipped for processing in Morton, Miss.

China's trade with US shrinks as tariff war worsens

BEIJING (AP)—China's trade with the United States is falling as the two sides prepare for negotiations with no signs of progress toward ending a tariff war that threatens global economic growth.

Imports of American goods tumbled 22% in August from a year earlier to \$10.3 billion, customs data showed Sunday. Exports to the United States, China's biggest market, sank 16% to \$44.4 billion.

Both sides have raised tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's imports in the fight over complaints about Beijing's trade surplus and

technology development plans. The United States, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those violate Chinese market-opening commitments.

U.S. and Chinese negotiators are preparing for talks in October. Despite that, the two governments escalated their fight on Sept. 1, imposing or increasing penalties on billions of dollars of goods. President Donald Trump plans another increase Oct. 15.

Chinese exporters also face pressure from weakening global consumer demand. That hurts efforts to find markets to

replace the United States.

"The tit-for-tat escalation shows how unlikely a trade deal and de-escalation have become," said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics in a report. "Meanwhile, the global trade weakness looks set to linger, which will continue to weigh on demand for China's exports."

The conflict has disrupted trade in goods from soybeans to medical equipment, battered traders on both sides and fueled fears in financial markets of a global economic slowdown.

China's politically sensitive trade surplus with the U.S. narrowed to \$31.3 billion in August

from \$27 billion a year earlier.

China's global exports fell 3% to \$214.8 billion, while imports were up 1.7% at \$180 billion. For the first eight months of 2019, exports were off 1% from a year earlier and imports were down 5.6%.

China's global trade surplus rose 25% from a year earlier to \$34.8 billion.

Exports to the European Union rose 3% from a year earlier to \$38.3 billion.

U.S.-Chinese negotiations broke down in May over how to enforce any agreement. Beijing says Trump's punitive tariffs must be lifted once an

agreement takes effect. Washington says some must stay to ensure Beijing carries out any promises it makes.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed in June to resume negotiations, though neither side shifted its position. Talks in Shanghai in July ended with no indication of progress.

The governments agreed to meet again in September but that was postponed to October. They have yet to announce a date.

Washington imposed 15% tariffs on Sept. 1 on \$112 billion of Chinese imports and plans to hit another \$160 billion on Dec. 15. That would extend penalties to almost

everything the United States buys from China.

Beijing responded by imposing duties of 10% and 5% on a range of American imports. More increases are due on Dec. 15 in line with the U.S. penalties.

U.S. tariffs of 25% imposed previously on \$250 billion of Chinese goods are due to rise to 30% on Oct. 1.

China has imposed or announced penalties on an estimated \$120 billion of U.S. imports. Some have been hit with increases more than once, while about \$50 billion of U.S. goods is unaffected, possibly to avoid disrupting Chinese industries.

Nation

Housing aid for Puerto Rican evacuees close to running out

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—In the months after Hurricane Maria destroyed her home in Puerto Rico, Ashlyn Gonzales moved to Connecticut, where federal and state aid helped her and her longtime partner avoid homelessness.

But aid at both levels has just about dried up, leaving Gonzales and many like her wondering what they are going to do next.

Connecticut, which saw over 13,000 people arrive from the U.S. Caribbean territory after the hurricane hit in September 2017, was unique in providing almost a million dollars in aid to help families after the Federal Emergency Management Agency's support ran out last year.

The supplementary state aid fund, overseen by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, drew upon \$600,000 in state money allocated by the state legislature and more than \$338,000 provided by private donors. Nearly all of it has been spent, administrators said.

"The funding given was vital for me and allowed me not to become homeless," Gonzales said in Spanish, adding neither she nor her partner want to go back to Puerto Rico.

Over 1,200 people in Connecticut have been helped through the multi-organizational response to the hurricane, said Richard Cho, executive



AP
In this Aug. 2, 2019 photo, Ashlyn Gonzales, right, and her longtime partner Emanuel Rivera clean their condo after work in Portland, Conn. |

director of the coalition. But he said more needs to be done as families continue relocating amid a political and economic crisis in Puerto Rico.

"I think Connecticut may be one of the only states though that kind of picked up the ball where FEMA left off," Cho said. "(It was) really unique to mobilize a number of partners, bring together government and the private sector and the nonprofit sector to develop a

state-specific response."

Some have questioned the need for the aid money. State Sen. Rob Thompson, a Republican who voted against legislation allocating money to the organizations, said he had concerns about how to ensure the money was spent appropriately.

The state aid had helped with more than rent — it was a means of paying car repairs, and other expenses that pile on

top of the cost of housing.

Gonzales chose to live in Connecticut because of its large Puerto Rican population, including her cousin. She and her partner currently live in a disability housing community in Portland, Connecticut. Gonzales was originally put up in a hotel—like many evacuees across the country—through the

federal aid. Once it ran out, she found temporary housing at a church before connecting with a community leader who helped them get the state funding.

Gonzales and her partner worry about their situation in the future because both are disabled and don't speak English.

Lydia Velez-Herrera, who

has been working as an intermediary between the coalition and the Puerto Rican families receiving funding, said "a lot of people are just trying to survive and avoid that eviction."

Gonzales volunteers with Velez-Herrera's organization.

"Some people are just holding off eviction for two or three months," Velez-Herrera said.

Brenda Viera moved to Connecticut from Puerto Rico with her partner Johnny Maldonado because of the environment and increasing instability on the island, coupled with the resignation of Governor Ricky Rossello in early August. She thanked Velez-Herrera for helping because the aid got them into a one-bedroom apartment in Hartford, making it easier for them to find jobs.

"We would be hungry right now, we see people that are homeless," Viera said in Spanish, "without this money ... we would be in the same circumstances, we would be walking in their shoes. We can say we can get up early and go to work."

Search warrants served in California boat fire investigation

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Authorities served search warrants Sunday at the Southern California company that owned the scuba diving boat that caught fire and killed 34 people last week.

Agents with the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and other agencies searched Truth Aquatics' offices in Santa Barbara and the company's two remaining boats, Santa Barbara County sheriff's Lt. Erik Raney said.

The warrants served shortly after 9 a.m. are part of the ongoing investigation into the tragedy to determine whether any crimes were committed, he said. The office was ringed in red "crime scene" tape as more than a dozen agents took photos and carried out boxes.

Thirty-four people died when the Conception burned and sank before dawn on Sept. 2. They were sleeping in a cramped bunkroom below the main deck and fire blocked their escape routes.

The bodies of all but one

victim have been recovered. The search for the final body was suspended this weekend because of strong winds and rough seas, Raney said.

"The dive teams are going to get together Monday to develop a plan. We're hoping they're back in the water on Tuesday," he said Sunday.

For a judge to approve warrants, law enforcement must spell out the probability a crime was committed. Raney declined to comment on what evidence was disclosed to obtain the warrants, saying only that they are "a pretty standard" part of the investigation to determine whether crimes occurred.

Coast Guard records show the Conception passed its two most recent inspections with no safety violations. Previous customers said Truth Aquatics and the captains of its three boats were very safety conscious.

Authorities are focused on determining the cause of the fire and are looking at many things, including how bat-

teries and electronics were stored and charged. They will also look into how the crew was trained and what crewmembers were doing at the time of the fire. The boat's design will also come under scrutiny, particularly whether a bunkroom escape hatch was adequate.

Five crew members jumped overboard after trying to rescue the 33 scuba divers and one crew member whose escape routes were blocked by fire, federal authorities and the boat's owner said. The crew, including the captain, said they were driven back by flames, smoke and heat.

They jumped from the bridge area to the main deck—one breaking a leg in the effort—and tried to get through the double doors of the galley, which were on fire.

That cut off both escape routes from the sleeping quarters: a stairway and an escape hatch that exited in the galley area. The crew then tried, but failed, to get into windows at the front of the vessel.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man streams chase before Minnesota police fatally shoot him

RICHFIELD, Minn. (AP)—Police near Minneapolis shot and killed a driver following a chase after he apparently emerged from his car holding a knife and refused their commands to drop it. The chase started late Saturday night in Edina and ended in Richfield with officers shooting the man, Brian J. Quinones, who had streamed himself live on Facebook during the chase. Police responded after Quinones ran a red light and wouldn't pull over, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. According to emergency dispatch audio, Quinones continued running through red lights in Richfield. After police forced the car to stop, Quinones got out holding what appears in the video to be a large knife in his left hand. In the dispatch audio, officers can be heard yelling, "Drop the knife. Drop the knife." Shots can then be heard before they say, "Shots fired. Shots fired." Quinones seemed calm and

expressionless during the chase, sometimes glancing in the rearview mirror. Just before the livestream, he posted on Facebook, "So sorry."

No officers were hurt. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office is investigating and declined comment Sunday.

ATV crashes kill 2 brothers minutes apart in North Dakota

ECKELSON, N.D. (AP)—Authorities say a North Dakota man was killed in an all-terrain vehicle crash while searching for his brother, who had died in a similar wreck minutes earlier. The Highway Patrol says the two crashes happened about 10 minutes apart Friday night near Eckelson. Authorities say each brother was driving an ATV to a farm. Forty-three-year-old Kyle Foster of Tucson, Arizona, was the first to roll his four-wheeler into a slough. He died at the scene. His 47-year-old brother, Jeremie Foster of Fargo, made it to the farm and then began to retrace his route to find his brother. He lost control, rolling into a ditch, and died on

the way to a hospital. Authorities say neither brother was wearing a helmet and alcohol was a factor in both wrecks.

WWII 'Screaming Eagle' veteran Henry Ochsner dies at 96

CALIFORNIA CITY, Calif. (AP)—World War II veteran Henry Ochsner, who landed on the beach at Normandy on D-Day and later received the French government's highest honor for his service, has died. He was 96. Family friend Dennis Anderson says Ochsner died Saturday at his home in California City of complications from cancer and old age. As part of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division—known as the "Screaming Eagles"—Ochsner also fought at the Battle of the Bulge. In 2017 Ochsner and nine other veterans were awarded France's National Order of the Legion of Honor during a ceremony at Los Angeles National Cemetery. Ochsner married Violet Jensen in 1947. He is survived by his wife, their four daughters and two granddaughters. Funeral plans are pending.

Asia

Marchers ask Trump to 'liberate' Hong Kong, as clashes erupt

HONG KONG (AP)—Thousands of demonstrators in Hong Kong urged President Donald Trump to “liberate” the semiautonomous Chinese territory during a peaceful march to the U.S. Consulate on Sunday, but violence broke out later in the business and retail district as police fired tear gas after protesters vandalized subway stations, set fires and blocked traffic.

Demonstrators flooded a park in central Hong Kong, chanting “Resist Beijing, Liberate Hong Kong” and “Stand with Hong Kong, fight for freedom.” Many of them, clad in black shirts and wearing masks, waved American flags and carried posters

that read “President Trump, please liberate Hong Kong” as they marched to the U.S. Consulate nearby.

“Hong Kong is at the forefront of the battle against the totalitarian regime of China,” said Panzer Chan, one of the organizers of the march. “Please support us in our fight.”

Hong Kong has been rocked by three months of unrest sparked by a proposed law that would have allowed criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial. Many saw the extradition bill as a glaring example of the erosion of civil liberties and rights promised under a “one country, two systems” framework when the former British

colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Hong Kong’s government promised this past week to formally withdraw the bill, but that failed to appease the demonstrators, who have widened their demands to include calls for direct elections for the city’s leaders and an independent probe into alleged police brutality against protesters.

The unrest has become the biggest challenge to Beijing’s rule since Hong Kong’s return from Britain. Beijing and the entirely state-controlled media have portrayed the protests as an effort by criminals to split the territory from China, backed by hostile foreigners.

Protesters on Sunday urged Washington to pass a bill, known as the Hong Kong Democratic and Human Rights Act, to support their cause. The bill proposes sanctions against Hong Kong and Chinese officials found to suppress democracy and human rights in the city, and could also affect Hong Kong’s preferential trade status with the U.S.

A group of protesters sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” before handing over an appeal letter to a U.S. Consulate official.

Just before the rally ended, violence erupted after riot police detained several

people and cleared a crowd from the nearby Central subway station. Angry protesters smashed glass windows, sprayed graffiti and started a fire at one of the station’s exits.

The government said protesters also set street fires and blocked traffic at some thoroughfares. In the type of cat-and-mouse battle that has characterized the summer-long protests, riot police pursued groups of protesters down streets, but they kept regrouping.

Police fired multiple rounds of tear gas in the Causeway Bay shopping area after protesters heckled them and

refused to leave. They also searched dozens of young people on the street and inside subway stations.

At the Mong Kok police station, clashes took place for a third straight night. Police fired projectiles at an angry crowd that was shining laser beams, and several people were detained.

The U.S. State Department said in a travel advisory Friday that Beijing has undertaken a propaganda campaign “falsely accusing the United States of fomenting unrest in Hong Kong.” It said U.S. citizens and embassy staff were targeted and urged them to exercise increased caution.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon kills 5 in N. Korea, 3 in S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—One of the most powerful typhoons to ever hit the Korean Peninsula has left five people dead and three injured in North Korea, state media reported Sunday, in its first public announcement of casualties since the storm made landfall in the country a day earlier. Before reaching North Korea, Typhoon Lingling hit South Korea, killing three people and injuring 13 others, though the country appears to have escaped widespread damage. The North’s official Korean Central News Agency, or KCNA, said the typhoon left 460 houses and 15 public buildings destroyed, damaged or inundated in the country. It said 46,200 hectares of farmland were buried or inundated. KCNA said the typhoon hit North Korea from 2 p.m. Saturday to midnight Sunday. Recovery work was underway in typhoon-afflicted areas, it said. Outside observers said rainstorms could be a catastrophe in North Korea because of poor drainage, deforestation and decrepit infrastructure in the impoverished country. South Korean media said North Korea could eventually report more typhoon-related casualties and damage.

Typhoon blows across Tokyo area, killing 1, halting travel

TOKYO (AP)—A typhoon blew across the Tokyo metropolitan area Monday morning, killing one person and causing dozens of injuries, while disrupting rush-hour travel and knocking out power. Several railway and

subway operators suspended services and flights were canceled at Tokyo airports as Typhoon Faxai passed over Chiba, a northern suburb of the Japanese capital, before daybreak, shaking homes with strong winds and battering the area with torrents of rain. Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told reporters that he had received a report of one death and damage caused by toppling trees and objects getting hurled through the air by the wind. He said some 900,000 power failures were also reported. The storm disrupted morning commutes and knocked over scaffolding, causing damage in a widespread area but no reported deaths.

PH confirms African swine fever, culls 7,000 pigs

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say lab tests have confirmed African swine fever has caused the deaths of pig herds in at least seven villages near Manila and adds a multi-agency body will be set up to ensure the highly contagious disease would not spread further. Agriculture Secretary William Dar said Monday that 16 of 20 blood samples sent to a British lab tested positive for the disease but further tests were needed to ascertain the virulence of the virus. More than 7,000 pigs have been culled in farms in villages in two provinces feared to have been hit by the viral infection. The Philippines is the latest country to be hit by the disease that has ravaged pig herds in Asia with hard-hit China and Vietnam culling millions of pigs.



Protesters wave U.S. flags and shout slogans as they march from Chater Garden to the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019. AP

Suicide bomber dies in Philippines; no other casualties

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A militant wearing a traditional black Muslim woman’s gown was killed in a suicide bombing attack Sunday on a military detachment in the southern Philippines that failed to inflict any other deaths or injuries, officials said.

The suicide attacker tried but failed to enter a detachment in Sulu province’s Indanan town and died when a bomb the militant was carrying exploded, officials said. It was the third known suicide attack in Sulu this year.

Regional military chief Lt. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana said the bomber failed to enter the detachment due to tight security. The militant had long hair and wore a black Muslim gown

but a hand severed in the explosion appeared to be too large for a woman, Sobejana said in a statement.

“The suicide bomber was ... foreign looking with long hair based on the recovered mutilated head, however, the recovered dismembered hand is similar to that of a man,” Sobejana said.

A military spokesman in Sulu, Lt. Col. Gerard Monfort, said by phone that troops took cover and assumed combat positions, some behind sand bags, when the militant refused to step away from the outpost’s gate and carried something that bulged in the bomber’s gown.

“A wary soldier yelled at the militant to ‘Don’t enter, go away, go away’ and other sol-

diers who heard him took cover and assumed combat positions,” Monfort said. “Then an explosion killed the militant.”

The blast damaged the detachment’s gate but did not cause any other deaths or injuries, Monfort said, adding that there were no civilians in the rural area at the time.

A device that was apparently used to trigger the explosion was recovered from the scene, which has been cordoned off and was being examined by bomb experts and police investigators, Sobejana said.

It was the third known suicide bombing this year by militants linked to the Islamic State group in Sulu, including a deadly Jan. 27 bombing by an Indonesian militant couple in a Roman

Catholic cathedral in the predominantly Muslim province.

In July, two suicide attackers separately detonated explosives in another military encampment in Indanan, killing the two militants. Authorities later confirmed through DNA tests of the remains of the attackers that one was a Filipino, the first known local militant to carry out a suicide attack.

All the suicide attacks, including Sunday’s explosion, sparked security alarms and were blamed by the military on the Abu Sayyaf, a small but brutal group that has been the target of ongoing military offensives. The Abu Sayyaf has been blacklisted by the U.S. and the Philippines as a terrorist organization.

World

Silence, devastation mark Bahamas town; but some are staying

MARSH HARBOUR, Bahamas (AP)—The streets are filled with smashed cars, snapped power cables, shattered trees and deep silence.

Full Coverage: Hurricane Dorian

At the airport and dock, hundreds of people clamor for seats on airplanes and berths on ships arriving with aid and departing with people who lost their homes when deadly Hurricane Dorian struck the Bahamas.

Nearly a week after disaster roared in from the sea, the rest of Marsh Harbour on Abaco island felt empty Saturday. A hot wind whistled through stands of decapitated pine trees and homes that collapsed during the most powerful hurricane in the northwestern Bahamas' recorded history.

Rescue teams were still trying to reach some Bahamian communities isolated by floodwaters and debris after the disaster that killed at least 44 people, most of them on Abaco Island.

The U.S. Coast Guard said it has rescued a total of 290 people in the northern Bahamas following the hurricane. Six MH-60 Jayhawk helicopters and nine cutters are helping in the aid effort, the Coast Guard said.

With so much air traffic, Bahamian officials banned non-aid flights over Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands. The National Emergency Management agency also threatened to revoke flight permission from any pilots charging fees to evacuate people from the islands.



AP
Jackson Blatch starts repairs on the roof of his home in Marsh Harbour, Abaco Island, Bahamas, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 after Hurricane Dorian hit.

facturer-provided clips on his hurricane shutters, he used long screws on as many as possible to fix the shutters tight to the window frame.

When Dorian hit, it only managed to rip away the shutters with store-bought clips, and a few sections of shingles, leaving some of the Blatch family's possessions wet but the structure and furnishings intact.

So Blatch has power from a generator, drinking water, food and the help of his son-in-law, 25-year-old Moses Monestine.

"I don't have a mortgage. I don't want to go to Nassau," he said. "I don't want to go to the United States. I don't want to depend on anyone."

Meanwhile, the United Nations said eight tons of food supplies were on the way by ship. Some 14,700 ready-to-eat meals as well as logistical and telecommunications equipment are being delivered, said Herve Verhoosel, spokesman for the U.N. World Food Program.

"The needs remain enormous," Verhoosel said.

No official figures were available, but much of the population of Marsh Harbour, home to most of the roughly 20,000 residents of Abaco, seemed to have already left. Many were stay-

ing with relatives in the capital, Nassau, others with family in Florida and other parts of the United States.

In Marsh Harbour's Murphy Town neighborhood, on a hill overlooking the azure sea, Jackson Blatch and his son-in-law were already rebuilding. In a blazing midday sun they stripped damaged shingles from Blatch's roofs and tossed them into his truck, parked below the eaves of a home he built by hand.

Like a few other Abaco residents, Blatch is staying on an island pulverized by nature.

"Everybody says, 'Leave.'

Leave and go where?'" Blatch asked. "My plan is to rebuild this island. I have a lot to offer."

Unlike almost every other home on Abaco, Blatch's house had little damage. He is a builder who prides himself on quality work. When mixing concrete, he never skimps, always precisely blending the recommended amounts of cement, sand and gravel for floors, columns and ceilings.

When he poured his walls and floors, he laced them thick with rebar, constructing a powerful skeleton that resisted the storm.

Instead of using the manu-

Turkey, US conduct 'safe zone' joint patrols in northern Syria

TALABYAD, Syria (AP)—Turkish and U.S. troops conducted their first joint ground patrol in northeastern Syria on Sunday as part of a so-called "safe zone" that Ankara has been pressing for in the volatile Kurdish-administered region.

Turkey hopes the buffer zone, which it says should be at least 30 kilometers (19 miles) deep, will keep Syrian Kurdish fighters away from its border. Turkey considers these Kurdish militias a threat, but they've also been key U.S. allies in the fight against the Islamic State group.

The presence of Turkish troops inside Kurdish-administered areas is a major development in the conflict along the border. Over the past four years, Washington has often had to play the role of arbiter, trying to forestall violence between its NATO ally Turkey and its local Syrian partners, the Kurdish-led fighters.

So far, the Kurdish-led forces have withdrawn as deep as 14 kilometers (nine miles) from the border and have removed defensive positions, sand berms and trenches.

The depth of the zone, as well as who will control it, is still being worked out.

Several Turkish armored vehicles with the country's red flag crossed into Syria where U.S. troops were waiting for them. About half

a mile away, more U.S. armored vehicles flying the American flag waited for the patrol to begin. Associated Press journalists in the area around the village of Tal Abyad Sunday saw the vehicles linking up, with the U.S. vehicles leading the 12-vehicle convoy.

With local farmers and children looking on, the convoy then drove through the rolling Syrian countryside, a patchwork of green farms and dry scrubby grassland. The joint patrol ended after two and a half hours, with four stops along the way in villages near the border.

Local commuters patiently waited while the convoy blocked traffic.

"We don't know what this will do. We will see," said one onlooker.

The Syrian government, which withdrew from the area in the chaos of war after the conflict erupted in 2011, condemned the joint patrol Sunday and labeled it "an aggression."

Even as the patrol was taking place, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said serious differences remained with the Americans.

"Our negotiations with the United States on the safe zone are continuing but we see with every step that what we want and what is in their head is not the same thing," he said.

Dorian lashes east Canada, then weakens heading out to sea

TORONTO (AP)—The storm that already walloped the Virgin Islands, Bahamas and North Carolina lashed at far-eastern Canada with hurricane-force winds for much of Sunday, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of people before weakening and heading into the North Atlantic.

Dorian had hit near the city of Halifax Saturday afternoon, ripping roofs off apartment buildings, toppling a huge construction crane and uprooting trees. There were no reported deaths in Canada, though the storm was blamed for at least 50 elsewhere along its path.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the post-tropical cyclone was centered about 375 miles (600 kilometers) north of Cape Race, Newfoundland, late Sunday. Its top sustained winds continued at to 60 mph (95 kph), after being above the 74 mph threshold of hurricane force earlier

in the day. It was heading to the east-northeast, roughly up the St. Lawrence River, at 24 mph (39 kph).

The storm swept over northwestern Newfoundland and southeastern Labrador during the afternoon and moved out over the cold waters of the Labrador Sea during the night.

Nova Scotia officials asked people in the province to stay off the roads so crews could safely remove trees and debris and restore power.

The government said up to 700 Canadian troops would be fanning out across the Maritimes to help restore electricity, clear roadways and evacuate residents in flooded areas.

Nova Scotia Power Inc. chief executive Karen Hutt said over 400,000 Nova Scotia Power customers lost power at the peak of the storm and 50,000 had since been restored. About 80% of Nova Scotia's homes and businesses

were blacked out—the highest in the company's history. Hutt said some customers could remain without service for days.

On Prince Edward Island, about 75% of homes and businesses had no electricity by Sunday afternoon, according to the province's Public Safety Department.

Widespread blackouts affecting up to 80,000 NB Power customers were reported in southern New Brunswick.

By far the greatest devastation caused by the storm was in the Bahamas, where Dorian struck a week ago as a Category 5 hurricane with 185 mph (295 kph) winds, and then hovered just offshore for more than a day and a half, obliterating thousands of homes.

Planes, cruise ships and yachts were evacuating people from the Abaco Islands and officials were trying to reach areas still isolated by flooding and debris.

The country's National Emergency Management Agency said it was sending in extra staff because operations had been hampered by the storm's impact on local workers.

The agency said it was setting up shelters or temporary housing for the newly homeless across the islands and appealed for Bahamians to take in storm victims.

Health Minister Duane Sands said Sunday the death toll had risen by one to 44. Dorian was blamed for five deaths in the U.S. Southeast and one in Puerto Rico.

Meanwhile, floodwaters were receding from North Carolina's Outer Banks, leaving behind a muddy trail of destruction. The storm's worst damage in the U.S. appeared to be on Ocracoke Island, which even in good weather is accessible only by boat or air and is popular with tourists for its undeveloped beaches.

Focus



In this Friday, Dec. 7, 2012 file photo Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe clenches his fists as he delivers his speech at his party's 13th annual conference, in Gweru about 250 Kilometres south west of the capital Harare. On Friday, Sept. 6, 2019, Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa said his predecessor Mugabe, age 95, has died.

AP

Mugabe's anti-colonial rage fueled long reign over Zimbabwe

By **ANDREW MELDRUM**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robert Mugabe had just made a furious speech against Zimbabwe's LGBT community, calling them "worse than pigs and dogs."

As he was about to get into his limousine, I asked, "Are you saying that gays in Zimbabwe have no legal rights?"

He glared at me and responded irately: "They have no rights whatsoever! They are an abomination and against human nature and God," he shouted. He grabbed my arm and jostled me, causing my head to knock against a video camera behind.

That is how I remember Mugabe: an angry man who channeled his rage against colonial rule to become one of Africa's most influential and longest-lasting leaders. He was one of the continent's most iconic rulers, arguably more popular for a time than his rival Nelson Mandela. And he was one of Africa's great liberators, who ruthlessly led the guerrilla force that ended white-minority rule in Rhodesia and brought about majority-rule Zimbabwe in 1980.

His 37-year reign and fist-shaking tirades against the former colonial powers of the West made him the ruler that many other African leaders emulate today.

Mugabe, who died Friday at age 95, grew up in poverty as the son of a single mother who was a subsistence farmer. Like all blacks in what was then Rhodesia, he suffered the indignities of colonial racism. He succeeded academically in a Catholic mission school and rose to become an African nationalist leader who had to fight to win basic democratic rights. When he won power in 1980, he advocated for reconciliation between whites and blacks but retained a bitterness that colored his rule.

I came to Zimbabwe as a journalist in 1980 and reported on Mugabe's significant achievements in improving education and health for the country's black majority, which made up more than 95% of the population. During 23 years in Zimbabwe, until my expulsion as the last foreign journalist in the country, I watched the shrewd tactics he used to retain power.

His attack on Zimbabwe's LGBT community in August 1995 was a calculated move. He disliked that his star as Africa's liberation hero had been eclipsed by Mandela, whose magnanimous and tolerant leadership included a constitution that specifically gave full legal rights to all citizens regardless of sexual orientation.

Mugabe defined a competing African nationalism that was exclusively for those who supported, and were accepted by, the ruling party. He was saying to the continent that Mandela's leadership was too accepting of Western values and that his leadership of Zimbabwe was more authentically African.

His anti-gay tirades became a turning point in how Mugabe was viewed internationally. Until then, he was generally regarded as a benign leader who had dramatically improved conditions for Zimbabwe's blacks. That positive image persisted despite the Matabeleland Massacres of the 1980s, in which his army killed 10,000 to 20,000 ethnic Ndebeles in the southern Matabeleland provinces. After his public excoriation of Zimbabwe's small LGBT community, he was widely seen as an authoritarian leader.

Mugabe's public posturing against gay people was not followed by punitive arrests. The country's small, beleaguered LGBT population, primarily represented by the group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, or GALZ,

succeeded in becoming an integral part of the human rights community.

I saw Mugabe's irritation with Mandela up close a year later, in August 1996, when he married his second wife, Grace, in a lavish wedding at his birthplace in Kutama Mission. Several African heads of state attended the ceremony, which was followed by a luncheon reception attended by thousands of his party's leaders and local residents. There was polite applause when Mugabe and Grace took their place at the top table. Then a huge cheer rippled through the crowd as Mandela strode through the crowd to his table. I looked over to see Mugabe, his face twisted into a bitter scowl directed at the South African leader.

A few years later, Mugabe launched his seizures of white-owned farms, the controversial move that became his signature policy.

In 2000, he had been in power for 20 years and was facing his most significant challenge from a new opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, which sprang from labor unions and attracted support from Zimbabwe's main Shona and Ndebele ethnic groups, the country's urban and rural residents and blacks and whites.

There had been a national vote for a new constitution, which would have increased Mugabe's executive powers. In a surprise result, the referendum was rejected, a stinging rebuke to his leadership that came just months before general elections for president and parliament.

Within two weeks, militias supporting Mugabe and his ruling party, ZANU-PF, began violently seizing white-owned farms. Mugabe said Zimbabweans were taking back land that had been illegally confiscated by British colonialists. About a dozen white farmers were killed in the takeovers.

At the same time, his militia attacked leaders of the opposition party across the country, killing an estimated 300 and torturing many more, according to human rights groups. Police stood by, saying they would not intervene in political disputes. The opposition was denied coverage in the state media, which had a monopoly on all television and radio broadcasts. There were widespread charges of rigging, through documented discrepancies in voter registration and vote counting. Mugabe and ZANU-PF won the election.

The farm confiscations continued over several years, reducing the 4,200 white-owned farms to just a few score. Many observers agreed that land redistribution from whites to blacks was long overdue, but the way it was done damaged the country's agricultural production and sent the economy into a downward spiral from which it has never recovered.

Many Africans regard the land grabs as Mugabe's crowning achievement. To them, it doesn't matter that lots of the farms went to his wife, generals, Cabinet ministers and party officials. It doesn't matter that Zimbabwe, which was once known as the continent's breadbasket, was reduced to a perennial recipient of international food aid.

What matters is that Mugabe eradicated white ownership of farms, the remaining vestige of white colonialism, and told the West to go to hell. That tapped into a deep-seated resentment across Africa and earned Mugabe widespread, and lasting, support.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

All is not what it seems with the 2019 Mazda3

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Feeling hungry?

If you asked for some fruit and I handed you a cucumber, you'd probably be unhappy. While it's technically a fruit, it's considered a vegetable by most people.

In case you didn't notice, many things are not always what they seem. Dresden china comes from Meissen, not Dresden. A guinea pig is not a pig from guinea; it's a South African rodent. Turkish baths originated in Rome, not Turkey. And the redesigned 2019 Mazda3 sedan and hatchback are not luxury cars, but Mazda would like you to think that they are.

That said, you could easily mistake them for higher priced merchandise, as they exude a sophisticated, well-honed élan that expresses an attitude well above their station. It's a refreshing change for this segment of the market, where some Asian competitors' designs wear faces that resembles a kabuki mask. While Mazda's sedan and hatchback boast a far more pleasing expression, each one wears dramatically different attire. Although they sport the same face, the hatchback is positioned as the more upscale model, with a price that starts \$2,600 higher than the sedan despite being 7.9 inches shorter in overall length.

To accentuate its uniqueness, the Mazda3 Hatchback is peculiarly styled behind its rear door, with a shape and angle that's idiosyncratic, but not



TNS
2019 Mazda3 AWD Premium Sedan.

necessarily attractive. It could be argued that its thought-provoking form lends it an upscale personality. Certainly it does that. But whether that will drive consumers to buy it is another matter. By contrast, the sedan is far more conventional in appearance, with a flowing belt line and up-to-date looks that will shock no one. But both vehicles have a fluidity to their sheet metal that could be mistaken for something pricier, a feeling that's certainly true once you climb inside, for its here where Mazda has spent money, and it shows.

Credit should go to its two-tone interior, where please ecrú accents offset the mostly black cabin. Soft touch accents abound in all the right places, including an instrument panel wrapped in a pleasing leather-like material.

As with the best new ve-

hicles, a large color 8.8-inch screen sits atop of the instrument panel, where it's easy to see while driving. A round controller knob flanked by shortcut buttons control it. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard on the hatchback and available on higher sedan trim levels. Bluetooth is standard. A Bose premium 12-speaker audio system with aluminum speaker grilles is optional.

The new infotainment screen is a huge improvement, but the user interface takes far too many steps to accomplish something simple, like changing a radio station from one to another. And, sadly, the interior has other ergonomic issues. The cup holders are placed far forward in the center console, just under the instrument panel, which limits the height of the cup or thermos you can place in it. And

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 Mazda3 AWD Premium Sedan

- **Engine:** Turbocharged 2.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- **Horsepower/Torque:** 186/186 pound-feet @4,000 RPM
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** 25/33 mpg
- **Fuel required:** Regular
- **Wheelbase/Length/Width:** 107.3/183.5/70.7 inches
- **Cargo capacity:** 13.2 cubic feet
- **Curb weight:** 3,248 pounds

while I applaud Mazda for fitting the Mazda3 with a wireless mobile phone charger, it's located in the center bottom of the console bin. The rubber mat helps prevent your phone from sliding around, but the using the pad means moving or removing everything stored

in the bin. Who thought this was a good design?

Quibbles aside, the front seats are comfortably supportive, and there's generous head and legroom. The same can't be said of the sedan's rear seat, where legroom is miserly at best. There was no chance to sample the Hatchback, but one would suppose it's better to fold down the rear seats than sit in them. If Mazda is serious about being a player in this segment, they need to provide more space than is offered here.

Underpinning this compact sedan with premium aspirations is a new architecture that speaks to this car's true mission as affordable transportation.

The same Skyactiv-G 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine mated to a six-speed automatic or manual transmission powers all 2019 Mazda3s.

Rated to deliver 186 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 186 pound-feet of torque at 4,000 rpm, front-wheel drive is standard, although all-wheel drive is optional. Last year's fully independent suspension has been replaced by MacPherson front struts up front and a twist beam in the rear. If this sounds somewhat less than premium, keep in mind this car's price point, which starts at \$21,000.

Nevertheless, once underway, you'll find the Mazda3's ride and handling lives up to its aspirations. The sedan delights the driver with a lively demeanor, feeling light on its feet, with quick steering that dials back the assist just enough to make things interesting. Bump absorption is very good, and the cabin remains quiet over all but the roughest road surfaces. Cornering behavior is about what you'd expect, with body lean coming on in extreme maneuvers. Acceleration is fairly good, but far from the overwhelming thrust that would get your blood boiling.

Aiding and abetting the driver are any number of driver-assistance aids, leather seats, seat heating and a head-up display.

Despite some decidedly old-fashioned bits, such as its six-speed automatic transmission and twist beam rear axle, the Mazda3 can lull you into believing you're driving something nicer, even though it's not caviar on a beer budget.

But it is a very affable small car, one with far more presence than you'd expect for the price.

Undercarriage blanket serves a purpose, but it isn't comfort

Q: As a baby boomer, gearhead and product of the '60s, I have driven many cars and serviced most of them, as I enjoyed it. I own a 2009 Jaguar XF V-8 that has a belly blanket making it impossible to service the vehicle at home. Can you explain the need for the undercarriage blanket and why many new cars are being equipped with them?

— W.G., Chicago

A: Obviously, the blanket isn't there to keep it warm. Nor is it a security blanket, although it may make catalytic converter theft more difficult. It is there to smooth the airflow beneath the car. Less turbulence means improved fuel economy.

Q: We will be spending about 4-6 months in Scottsdale, Ariz., each winter. We'll leave two cars here and one car there. I've been advised to get battery trickle chargers for each car while they sit unused. I also plan to add gas stabilizer to the tank while we're gone. What advice do you have for cars left in an unheated or non-air-conditioned garage 4-6 months a year?

— L.P., Bloomington, Ill.

A: You are right on target about using battery chargers, but buy smart chargers that will maintain the batteries without overcharging them. Typical trickle chargers don't have this feature. A fuel stabilizer is another must, but check the expiration date if

you have an older bottle on your shelf. Stabil has been around for over 60 years, but I hope the stuff you use isn't that old. Be sure to add it to a full tank of gas. I also suggest that you change the oil prior to placing the vehicles in storage.

Q: The note from G.W. in Allentown reminds me of an incident that happened several years ago with my Jeep Grand Cherokee. My brother-in-law had borrowed the Jeep while his car was in the shop. While exiting a controlled access parking area he experienced a surge while applying the brakes and ran the vehicle into an electric gate.

Turns out the issue was due to the oversized comfort shoes he was wearing. He accidentally hit both the gas and the brake at the same time. And the harder he pushed on the brake, the worse it became. Brothers-in-law!

— G.B., Chicago

A: It is unlikely that G.W. was wearing clown shoes when encountering the brake problem that felt like surging. But you do bring up an important point. Footwear can make a difference. Here's hoping Bigfoot footed the repair bill.

Q: In response to coasting to that red light, nothing can be more annoying than to have someone like S.A. from Coral Springs coasting one-quarter to one-half mile in front of me preventing me from entering an opening left turn lane

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

and thereby missing my signal while there is lots of space in front of him. He could make a stop without slamming on his brakes.

— H.S. Boynton Beach, Fla.

A: Slow down and smell the roses, H.S. That minute you lose is usually not lost forever. Reflect on how many times you have passed someone only to have them roll up right behind you at the next red light or toll plaza. Try to adopt the motto of the Maryland highways: "Drive gently." Drive like hell and you just may get there.

Life & Style

CHAPTER TWO SCARES UP \$91M DEBUT

A robust audience turned out to catch “It: Chapter Two” in movie theaters this weekend, but not quite as big as the first.

Warner Bros. says Sunday that “It: Chapter Two,” the only major new release, earned an estimated \$91 million from North American ticket sales in its first weekend from 4,570 screens.

Trailing only its predecessor that debuted to a record \$123.4 million in September 2017, the launch of “It: Chapter Two” is the second highest opening for a horror film ever and the month of September, which before “It” was not a strong month for blockbusters. Both were directed by Argentine filmmaker Andy Muschietti.

Jeff Goldstein, who oversees domestic distribution for Warner Bros., called the debut “sensational” and isn’t concerned that “Chapter Two” didn’t hit the heights of the first.

“How many movies open to \$91 million? That was lightning in a bottle,” Goldstein said. “You don’t get lightning in a bottle twice. You get close though.”

Based on Stephen King’s novel, “It: Chapter Two” brings the Losers Club back to Derry 27 years later to take on the demonic clown Pennywise, and stars James McAvoy, Jessica Chastain and Bill Hader as a few of the adult “losers.” The sequel cost around \$79.5 million to make. Reviews were a little more mixed than for the first—86% versus 64% on Rotten Tomatoes—but audiences were consistent. Both films got a B+ CinemaScore.

“Andy Muschietti does an incredible job of scaring the stuffing out of audiences,” Goldstein said. “I think our team, starting with New Line in making this and our marketing team in bringing it to audiences around the globe, have hit the mark right on. They nailed it.”

Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian noted that, unlike most horror films which tend drop off significantly after opening weekend, “It: Chapter Two,” like its predecessor and some of the recent high quality horror films could have “incredibly long playability.”

“It: Chapter Two” is also a big win for Warner Bros., which had a few disappointments this summer with “The Kitchen” and “Shaft,” but also have a few films that could really take off, including “Joker,” out Oct. 4, and another King adaptation, “Doctor Sleep,” out Nov. 8.

The rest of the top 10 was populated by holdovers: “Angel Has Fallen” took a distant second with \$6 million and “Good Boys” placed third with \$5.4 million. In limited release, the documentary “Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice” performed well in its first weekend, grossing \$115,500 from seven locations.

After a down summer for the industry as a whole and a year that is still running 6% down, “It: Chapter Two” is a promising start to the fall movie season, which runs from the day after Labor Day weekend through November.

“It’s really important to have a movie to get the momentum going,” Dergarabedian said. (AP)

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “It: Chapter Two,” \$91 million (\$94 million international).
2. “Angel Has Fallen,” \$6 million (\$7.6 million international).
3. “Good Boys,” \$5.4 million (\$2.3 million international).
4. “The Lion King,” \$4.2 million (\$13.4 million international).
5. “Overcomer,” \$3.8 million.
6. “Fast & Furious Presents Hobbs & Shaw,” \$3.7 million (\$15.7 million international).
7. “The Peanut Butter Falcon,” \$2.3 million.
8. “Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark,” \$2.3 million (\$701,000 international).
9. “Ready or Not,” \$2.2 million (\$2.3 million international).
10. “Dora and the Lost City of Gold,” \$2.2 million (\$2.3 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Comscore:

1. “It: Chapter Two,” \$94 million.
2. “Fast & Furious Presents Hobbs & Shaw,” \$15.7 million.
3. “The Lion King,” \$13.4 million.
4. “Once Upon a Time In Hollywood,” \$13 million.
5. “Ne Zha,” \$8.1 million.
6. “Angel Has Fallen,” \$7.6 million.
7. “Toy Story 4,” \$4.9 million.
8. “The Angry Birds Movie 2,” \$4.4 million.
9. “Free Solo,” \$3.3 million.
10. “2.0,” \$2.6 million.

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Bill Skarsgard as Pennywise in New Line Cinema’s horror thriller “It: Chapter 2.”

WARNER BROS. PICTURES VIA AP

Injuries reported in stampede at Lil Wayne’s music festival

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A crowd stampede injured several people attending a New Orleans festival organized by rapper Lil Wayne.

Large portions of an audience estimated to include 15,000 people ran at least twice Saturday night, causing injuries following Meek Mill’s performance at the Lil WeezyAna Fest.

The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reports police aren’t sure what caused the disturbance, but speculated that false rumors of gunfire or a fight could have prompted panic.

“My brother said to me and my cousin, ‘Run. Just run. I don’t know what’s happening,’” local attorney Melanie Melasky said. “I turned around at one point to see what was happening, but everyone was running away.”

It wasn’t clear how many people were injured. The newspaper reported fans knocked to the ground and suffering cuts, scrapes and bruises. On-site medical staffers provided care.

A medical tent and concession stands near the stage were overrun, with the medical tent left in tatters on the ground. Sections of fencing were knocked over. Tables were overturned. And beverage booths near the main stage

were damaged.

“I didn’t know what was going on,” said George Kridner, an employee of Bev Inc., the catering company that operated the drink booths at Lil WeezyAna Fest. “It was a stampede. The first thing you think is, ‘Was it gunshots?’ I think it was a fight.”

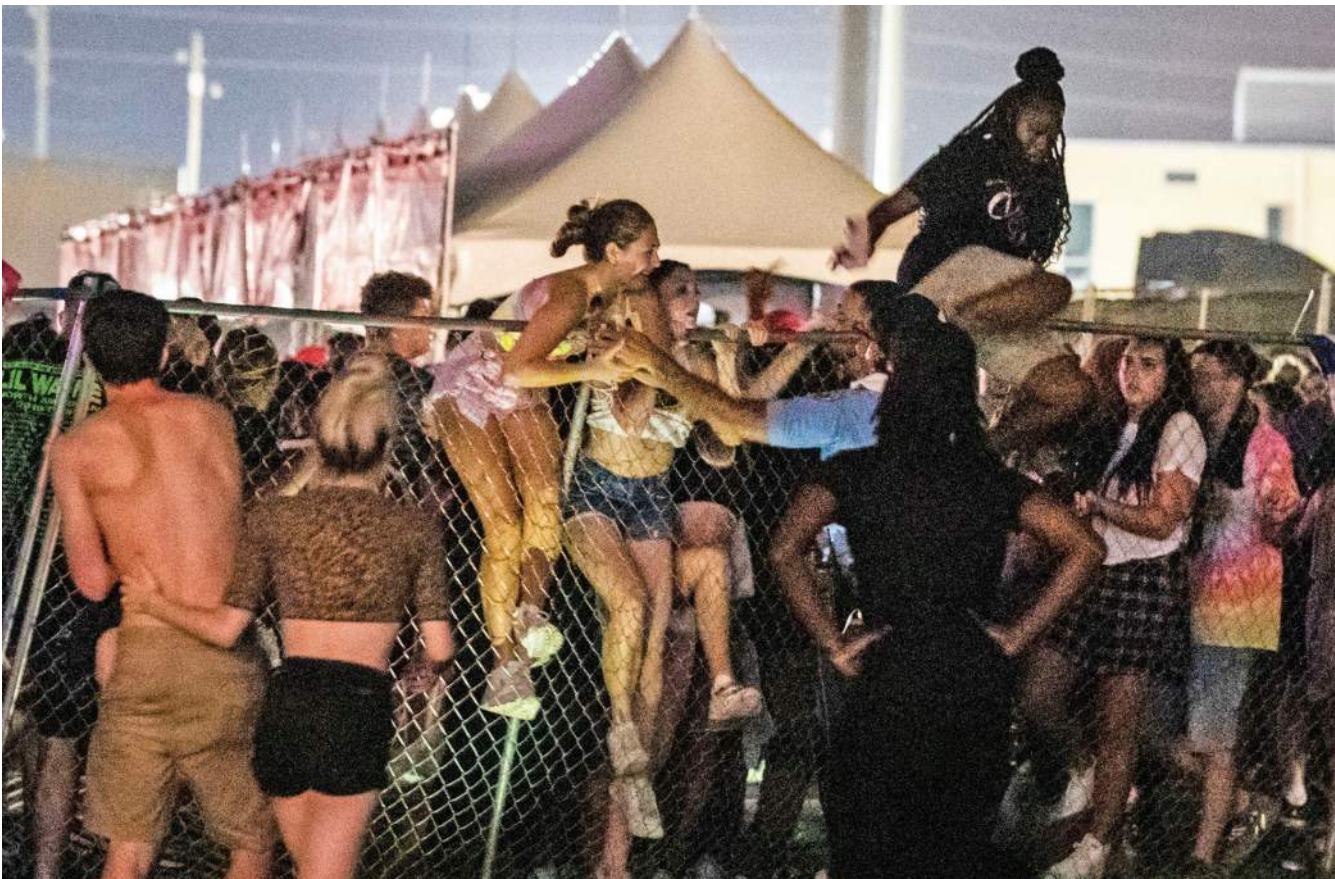
Police officers stationed around the site said no shots were fired on the festival grounds.

Some people looted during the melee, stealing from cash registers and tip jars, concession workers said. Some festival attendees took bottles of liquor and other drinks when the employees fearing for their safety abandoned the booths. After the beverage booths were initially overrun, and money and liquor taken, Kridner said he and his fellow employees shut down the booth.

“We salvaged what we could,” he said.

The show continued despite the commotion. Following Meek Mill’s 30-minute set, rapper Travis Scott performed and Lil Wayne headlined the festival.

The first Lil WeezyAna Fest in 2015 coincided with the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and was intended in part as a celebration of the city’s recovery.



In this Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 photo, festival-goers try to escape the crowd during Lil Wayne’s fifth annual Lil WeezyAna Fest at the UNO Lakefront Arena grounds in New Orleans. A crowd stampede injured several people attending a New Orleans festival organized by rapper Lil Wayne.

Opera union launches investigation into Domingo allegations

NEW YORK (AP)—The union that represents opera performers and staff has launched its own investigation

into sexual harassment allegations against superstar Plácido Domingo, saying it cannot be sure that opera companies will delve into them sufficiently themselves.

The American Guild of Musical Artists said its investigation was prompted by two Associated Press stories in which multiple women accused the opera legend of sexual harassment or other inappropriate conduct.

The union sent an email to its members noting that it had asked companies that employed the 78-year old singer to fully investigate the allegations, but that the companies “have been unwilling

or unable to provide AGMA with sufficient assurances about the scope and timing of their investigations, as well as whether or not the findings will be publicly disclosed or otherwise made available to the union.”

The Los Angeles Opera, where Domingo has served as general director since 2003, has hired outside counsel to conduct an investigation but has declined to disclose any details about how it will be conducted or whether the results will be made public.

The union’s email, sent to members Friday night, said its investigation will be conducted by criminal defense attorney

J. Bruce Maffeo, a former federal prosecutor now with the firm Cozen O’Connor.

It quoted Len Egert, the union’s national executive director, as saying the investigation would not be limited to conduct at a specific company or during a specific time. Egert said the investigation will “examine the systemic failures within the industry that could have allowed this conduct, if substantiated, to continue unchallenged for decades.”

Domingo’s spokeswoman has called the allegations in the AP’s stories “riddled with inconsistencies” and “in many ways, simply incorrect,” but has offered no specifics.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†JUAN GARRIDO VILLAGOMEZ (LAFFET)

Born on: July 24, 1947 | Called to Eternal life on: September 4, 2019

In his new life, he will be greeted and reunited with his:

Parents: †Ignacio Pangelinan Villagomez
†Ana Garrido Villagomez

He will forever be remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife: Louise C. Villagomez

Children: Norman C. Villagomez/Nieves and Family
John C. Villagomez/Mika
Jeanette V. Delos Reyes/Albert and Family
Cindy C. Villagomez and Family
Norbert C. Villagomez and Family
Ignacio C. Villagomez/Mel and Family
Ana C. Villagomez and Family
Alexandra C. Villagomez/Anthony and Family
Raymond C. Villagomez/Loni and Family

Siblings: †Merced V. Cabrera/†Victorino and Family
†Francisco G. Villagomez/Isabel and Family
†Romana V. Tudela/†Alejandro and Family
†Ralph G. Villagomez/Maria and Family
†Jesus G. Villagomez/Nieves and Family
Fr. Jose G. Villagomez
†Ramon G. Villagomez/Angelina and Family
Consolacion V. Quichocho/Francisco and Family
Cecilia V. San Nicolas/Vicente and Family

†Juan will also be missed by his numerous friends and relatives.

On Wednesday, September 11, 2019, his remains will arrive at Saipan International Airport at 8:00am.

Nightly Rosary is being said at Villagomez Residence in As Perdido at 7:00pm. On Saturday, at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral for public viewing until 10:00am. Mass of Christian Burial will be said beginning at 10:00am. Interment Service will follow immediately at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid at his final resting place.

Your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Louise Camacho Villagomez, Children and Family

Longchamp doesn’t want to be remembered as just French

NEW YORK (AP)—Longchamp doesn’t want to be remembered as exclusively French.

Though artistic director Sophie Delafontaine is a proud Parisian, she said she wants the brand to embody an international spirit. And what better way to show that spirit than bringing a collection to New York inspired by the American artist Judy Chicago.

Delafontaine told The Associated Press she drew inspiration from the feminist artist known most widely for her art installation “The Dinner Party,” currently located in the Brooklyn Museum. Chicago also played with smoke, photographing colorful billows in the desert and other locations.

It was those photos that spoke to Delafontaine.

“I start with an artist that is



Fashion from Longchamp is modeled Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019, in New York.

Judy Chicago and her color explosion in the desert and I really wanted to have this explosion in the city,” she said.

Models in muted orange, petal pink, lavender and burgundy walked Saturday alongside a pool of water at Lincoln Center.

“I was really involved with this location that is super urban, very graphic,” said Delafontaine of the pool with the Reclining Figure statue resting in the center. “And I wanted to mix this location with very feminine and fluid dresses with color.”

Rian Johnson's razor-sharp 'Knives Out' revives the whodunit

TORONTO (AP)—The whodunit, with its puffy armchairs, missing murder weapons and meandering trail of clues, never exactly went out of favor. But in “Knives Out,” Rian Johnson has revived the genre with an affectionate ode to Agatha Christie that has some contemporary twists of its own.

“Knives Out” made its raucous premiere Saturday night at the Toronto International Film Festival, keeping rapt festival audiences engrossed in following Johnson’s clever genre construction and the film’s comic and star-studded ensemble, all of them crowded throughout a lavish country manor that one character refers to as “like a Clue board.”

The crime is the apparent suicide of the wealthy crime

novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer). But the famous detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig, a kind of Louisiana-accented version of Christie’s Hercule Poirot) suspects foul play, and he has a colorful cast of family members and others to investigate including Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, Don Johnson and Ana de Armas. Armas plays Thrombey’s faithful immigrant nurse, whose nationality none of the family can get right and who can’t help but vomit every time she tells a lie.

Johnson, whose last film was the contentious “Star Wars” installment “The Last Jedi,” has already put his deconstructionist touch on film noir (“Brick”) and sci-fi (“Looper”). But his love of



AP
Actor Daniel Craig poses for photographs with fans for the new movie “Knives Out” at the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019.

ters—like the stuffy old colonel or the butler or the free-thinking young woman who’s smoking cigarettes—these are characters that now we think of as entombed in amber as if they’re clichés,” Johnson said. “But at the time, these were caricatures reminding us of types in British society. So the idea of using that same element of caricature in the framework of this very fun mystery with a modern American setting, with modern American character types, that seemed like fertile ground.”

Johnson had the idea for “Knives Out” about 10 years ago and initially planned it as his follow-up to 2012’s “Looper.” “Star Wars” changed that. Johnson is also developing a new trilogy for the expanding franchise.

“It wasn’t a break in the sense of ‘Oh god, I’ve got to get out this Star Wars machine,’” said Johnson of “Knives Out.” “But there was something really nice about the contrast of doing a very dialogue-based movie. I could hire all these fantastic actors and give them a lot of words. It’s just been an essential part of ‘Star Wars’ to some degree you’re always trying to figure out the simplest way to say any thought.”

Johnson has some company in his admiration for Christie. Kenneth Branagh made 2017’s “Murder on the Orient Express.” It did well enough at the box office (an impressive \$352.8 million worldwide) that he’s prepping another adaptation for next fall: “Death on the Nile.”

whodunits runs deep. He grew up reading Christie paperbacks and loving their film adaptations—particularly those with Peter Ustinov as Poirot, such as “Death on the Nile” and “Evil Under the Sun.”

He even counts himself a fan of the recent Adam Sandler-Jennifer Aniston Netflix film “Murder Mystery.”

“I just love the genre,” Johnson said in an interview. “Even though it’s sort of a niche corner of a genre, I feel like it’s a genre people love disproportionate to the amount of stuff that’s out there. Whenever I say ‘I just made a whodunit murder mystery,’ there’s a little glint in people’s eyes.”

“Knives Out,” which Lionsgate will release Nov. 27, faithfully abides many of the traditions of the whodunit while playfully inverting others. Though saying much would spoil the fun, the mysteries of “Knives Out” hover around issues of class disparity and immigration.

“A lot of Christie’s charac-

Britney Spears’ dad asks to ‘temporarily relinquish’ his guardianship

By **NANCY DILLON**
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Britney Spears’ dad is temporarily stepping down as her conservator after more than a decade, citing an unidentified health issue amid claims he got physical with her son.

In new court documents filed in Los Angeles, Jamie Spears said he wants to “temporarily relinquish” his guardianship powers over the pop star “due to personal health reasons.”

He asked that licensed caretaker Jodi Montgomery be appointed as his temporary replacement, saying she’s been Spears’ “care manager” for about a year and has the right “ability, experience and support resources” to keep the singer on track.

The handover of power should take place Monday and extend until Jan. 20, Ja-

mie said.

The paperwork was filed amid an independent evaluation of the conservatorship ordered by a judge in May after the “Toxic” singer, 37, testified behind closed doors for about an hour. The review is set to be the subject of a Sept. 18 hearing.

In his latest filings, Jamie Spears said his replacement should retain his power to “restrict and limit visitors by any means,” retain caretakers on a 24-hour basis, hire security guards and access all records for the Grammy winner’s medical and psychiatric treatment.

Montgomery signed her own paperwork consenting to the handover of power.

Jamie Spears stepped in as his daughter’s conservator back in 2008 after some highly publicized turmoil in the singer’s life and her in-

voluntary hospitalization at a psychiatric facility.

He was in charge as she returned to the stage for a successful Las Vegas residency, regained visitation with her sons and started a long-term relationship with boyfriend Sam Asghari.

But the pop star checked herself into a mental health facility earlier this year due to problems with her medications, TMZ reported, and her father sought to register the conservatorship in other states amid an apparent threat to his authority.

He recently was accused of physically abusing Spears’ 13-year-old son, and authorities are investigating the matter, a law enforcement confirmed to the New York Daily News this week.

The alleged incident happened Aug. 24 while Spears’ two sons were visiting their

grandfather at his Ventura County residence, the source said.

The singer’s oldest son “got into an argument” with Jamie Spears, and the grandfather allegedly became angry, busted through a door and put his hands on the child, the source said.

“This resulted in the child being afraid,” the source said.

Spears quickly took her kids out of the house and back to their father, Kevin Federline, according to the source.

Federline reported the incident to the Ventura County Sheriff, and a law enforcement restraining order was issued, the source said.

Federline and his Los Angeles divorce attorney Mark Vincent Kaplan later reached an agreement with Jamie Spears’ camp that he would keep his distance.

Wife discovers man has been secretly recording arguments

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 10 years and have two children. One of them is a toddler.

I recently found out that my husband has been recording me with his phone at various times without my consent when we have heated arguments. He claims he does it to protect himself in the event that I try to have him arrested.

Abby, there is no abuse in our marriage, and I have never threatened to call the police on him. I’m hurt and paranoid now. I don’t even want to be in my own home. He claims to have deleted the files, but I don’t trust him. Any advice would be helpful.

HURT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR HURT: If I ever heard of a couple needing marriage counseling, it is you two. The recording won’t show what started the argument or what came after it, both of which are important. Please ask your doctor or health care provider for a referral to a licensed marital and family therapist. Go alone if your husband won’t go with you.

It appears your husband is playing mind games with you. And I’m also concerned about how this volatility is affecting your children. If something isn’t done about it, it will destroy your marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 23-year-old man living in Texas. I am a college graduate and on my own now. My parents are very caring, but my father has an unhealthy obsession with me.

He messages me multiple times a day. It never stops. I’m currently looking for teaching jobs, and he tries to intervene by looking for them for me. He’s like a wasp that will not go away, and it is making me very uncomfortable. Even though I am an adult, he tries to tell me what to do and how to do it. I am so confused; please help me.

LETTING GO IN TEXAS

DEAR LETTING GO: Keep in mind that your father means well. He doesn’t understand you are now an adult and don’t need his interventions. Have a talk with both of your parents about this. Tell them your father’s constant messaging is making you extremely uncomfortable. Ask him to please stop and warn them both that if he doesn’t, you will be forced to block his communication and keep your distance from him.

DEAR ABBY: My best girlfriend for 40 years broke up with me because, after she told me she and her husband were having marital problems, I told her the last time we two couples were using their hot tub, her hubby was stroking my leg with his foot.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

I know I ruined everything, but I thought she should know. Did I do the right thing? I have written long letters of apology, but she has completely shut me out.

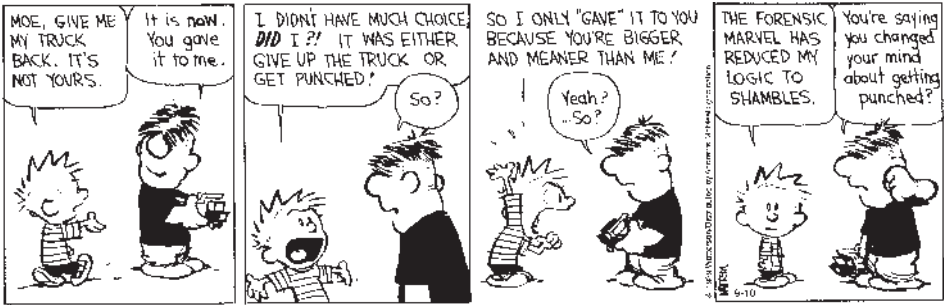
TELLING THE TRUTH IN OHIO

DEAR TELLING: You did nothing wrong by telling your longtime friend. The fault that the friendship is over doesn’t lie with you. She is probably embarrassed, or her husband lied and told her what he did was harmless.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



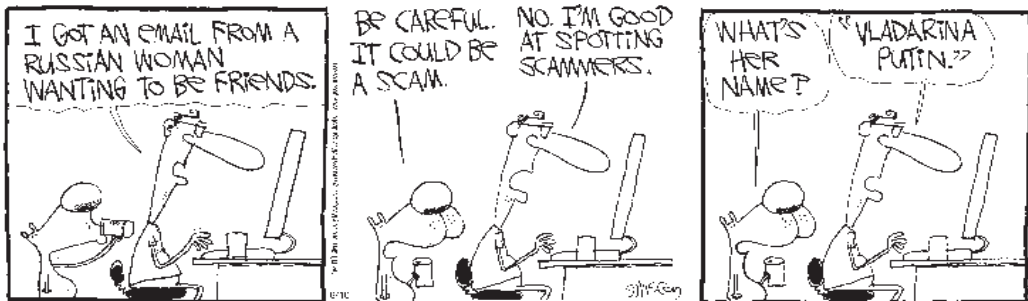
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Salad
5 British "Inc."
8 Coffee
12 Roman
13 Author Fleming
14 Carolina college
15 "Othello" villain
16 Tropical fruit
18 Credit cards
20 Comment to the audience
21 Tease
22 Request
23 Tickle
26 Made into braids
30 Pas' mates
31 Use a straw
32 Foreman foe
33 Mollify
36 Bitter
38 Con-sumed
39 Jam ingredi-ent?

DOWN

40 Insurance giant
43 Enthusiastic approval
47 Tot's appointment
49 Sulk
50 Band-leader
51 Distant
52 Unruly kid
53 Viewed
54 "For
55 "Smooth Operator" singer

3 Latvia's capital
4 News-stands
5 Fatty compound
6 Body powder
7 "CSI" evidence
8 Lakeside rental
9 Jai —
10 Nullify
11 Green Gables girl
17 Houston org.
19 Dead heat
22 Jungfrau, e.g.
23 Music booster

24 — de mer
25 "Suits" network
26 Diner dessert
27 Sailor
28 Peyton's brother
29 Carried out
31 Sault — Marie
34 Big gorge
35 Slightly
36 Small battery
37 Cookie bits
39 Store worker
40 Rental units (Abbr.)
41 Writer Wiesel
42 London gallery
43 School support orgs.
44 Nickel-odeon's "Explorer"
45 Apple tablet
46 Head, to Henri
48 Astern

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 45; Colin Firth, 59; Amy Irving, 66; Joe Perry, 69.

Happy Birthday: A change to your surroundings will motivate you to reach your goals. Stop procrastinating; put your long-term plans in motion. Refuse to let anyone stand between you and what you want to happen. You are the master of your destiny, and your happiness depends on the decisions you make to satisfy your needs. Your numbers are 6, 14, 24, 27, 32, 35, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An open-minded attitude when dealing with financial, medical or legal matters will help you sort through problematic situations. Finding a good source of information will encourage you to express your opinions and forge ahead. Don't make a change without good reason. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look for the best way to move forward. If you make a decision based on what someone else does or says, you will end up having second thoughts and possible regret. Self-help, a healthy lifestyle and romance are encouraged. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do what works best for you. You'll meet with opposition, but if you follow the path that makes sense in your life, you'll have no regrets. Opportunity begins with organizing, rearranging and executing your plans to suit your needs. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make a change before someone else does. Control whatever situation you face, and you'll find the best way to make the most of what's happening.

How you speak to and treat others will determine how much help and support you will receive. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look at every possible angle before you make a decision that will influence a meaningful relationship, your reputation or your position. An emotional incident will lead to trust issues. Stick to the truth, and verify what others tell you. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Refuse to get into a squabble with someone you live or work alongside. Keep the peace; take care of business and responsibilities. Taking part in a challenge will lead to a positive change and a feeling of accomplishment. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Slow down; mull over what's happened and what hasn't. Consider the outcome before you initiate a change. Refuse to let emotions be a deciding factor when it comes to handling personal, domestic and financial affairs. Know your limitations and your boundaries. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will question your motives if you let emotions flare up. Consider who is best suited to help you sort through information that is conflicting or inconsistent. Choose to be practical, and you'll avoid regret and potential loss. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone who offers an exaggerated overview of a proposal that captures your attention will manipulate you. Don't make a move without getting the lowdown regarding the financial, physical and emotional contribution that you will have to endure. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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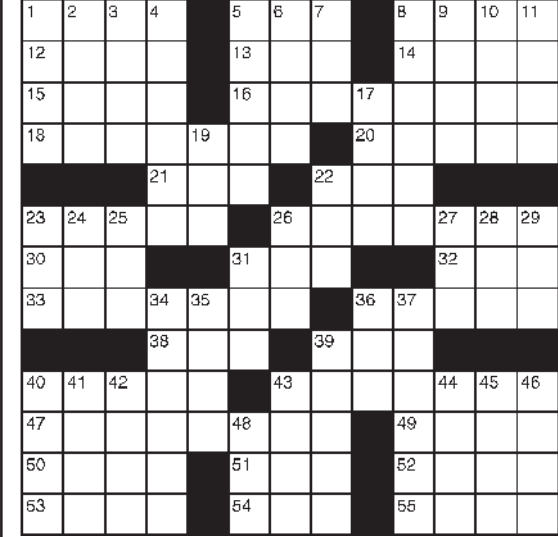
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to your original plan, even if someone tries to convince you that stretching your budget will be worth your while. It's best to play it safe and stick to practical and moderate applications as you move forward. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be direct if you want to protect your position, reputation or status. Don't be afraid to expose what someone has done if it will save you from being accused of something you didn't do. Don't take the fall for someone's mistake. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Dream big, but don't go over budget. Make suggestions that are within your means and comfortable for the people you are dealing with to understand. Don't keep secrets that can jeopardize your relationship with someone you love. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, determined and helpful. You are flexible and proactive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JOJOBA OIL Solution: 7 letters

K R A D E T C A R T X E N C A
C S M O O L B N E L L O P T Y
I C G O A T N U T A H A L A X
H O P S O R I A S I S A R T A
T F L O W E R S E H V G U L W
N F S E P A L S X O B N L I O
A E H C E L L S A F E T O P S
L E A J A B K I W N U D P S N
P B M P T I A S I N I A E T O
I E P O N N H N R N S V R I I
G R O W O R I E E T A D O C T
N O Z U U E N E E O H E K O
U Y I B Q D W I L D H A Z E L
T R E S E D T H L A R I P S S
A E L U S P A C O L O R A D O

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Acne, Arizona, Baja, Blooms, Box, Bush, Capsule, Cells, Chinensis, Coffeeberry, Colorado, Dark, Deer Nut, Desert, Extracted, Flowers, Goat Nut, Gray, Grow, Hair, Hazel, Iodine, Leaves, Lipstick, Lotions, Oil, Oval, Paste, Pignut, Plant, Pollen, Psoriasis, Quinine Nut, Root, Safe, Seeds, Sepals, Shampoo, Shrub, Skin, Spiral, Thick, Utah, Wax Ester, Waxy, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Chicken

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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(2) Heavy Equipment Mechanics - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors), completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate
- Minimum 2 years/24 months experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- Valid CNMI Driver's license
- Valid CNMI police clearance
- Current DOT physical examination

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(02) Counter Clerks - \$7.31 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Receive orders, generally in person, for repairs, rentals, and services. May describe available options, compute costs, and accept payment. Greet customers and discuss the type, quality, and quantity of merchandise sought for rental. Compute charges for merchandise or services and receive payments. Answer telephones to provide information and receive orders. Provide information about rental items, such as availability, operation, or description. Rent items, arrange for provision of services to customers, and accept returns.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Degree;
- At least 06 months experience;
- Must be a computer literate

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) Architectural Drafter \$20.33 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Prepared detailed drawings of architectural designs and plans for buildings, structures and interior rooms according to specifications provided by architect. Operate computer aided drafting (CAD) equipment or conventional drafting station to produce designs, working drawings, charts, forms and records. Analyze building codes, bylaws, space and site requirements and other technical documents and reports to determine their effect on architectural designs. Perform other related duties as assigned.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Architecture or related field required. Two (2) years experience as Architectural Drafter is required.
All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Three (03) Auto Technicians 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system, test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

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ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Civil Engineering Technician \$14.18 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties may include but not limited to: Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of the Operating Manager. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects to ensure conformance with specifications. Confer with supervisors.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Associate Degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum 24 months experience
- Civil Engineering license or equivalent

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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(25) Heavy Equipment Operators, \$8.50 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Operate one or several types of power construction equipment, such as motor graders, bulldozers, scrapers, compressors, pumps, derricks, shovels, tractors, or front-end loaders to excavate, move and grade earth, erect structures, or pour concrete or other hard surface pavement. May repair and maintain equipment in addition to other duties. Learn and follow safety regulations. Take actions to avoid potential hazards or obstructions, such as utility lines, other equipment, other workers, or falling objects. Locate underground utilities, such as pipes and wires, prior to beginning work. Monitor operations to ensure that health and safety standards are met. Adjust hand wheels and depress pedals to control attachments, such as blades, buckets, scrapers, or swing booms.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating and controlling power construction equipment and in monitoring of gauges, dials or other indicators to make sure that the equipment is working properly.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
THREE (3) Heavy Equipment Mechanic \$8.73 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Operate and Inspect Machines and Heavy Equipment. Trucks and vehicles to Diagnose Defects. Clean, Lubricate, and perform other routine maintenance work on Heavy equipment, Trucks and vehicles. Repair or Overhaul Machines, Heavy Equipment, Trucks, and Vehicles then test to ensure operating efficiency. Perform other related duties as assigned.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: At least 24 months experience as Heavy Mechanic is required.
All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) Automotive Service Technician & Mechanic \$7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Diagnose cause of most malfunctions and performs repair of vehicles. Examines vehicle to determine if further safety or service work is required or recommended. Road tests vehicles when required. Accomplish related duties as assigned.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma required. At least 2 years experience as Automotive Service Technician & Mechanic is required.
All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Two (02) Maintenance Technicians \$8.33 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting, boiler making; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Inspect, operate, or test machinery or equipment to diagnose machine malfunctions. Dismantle machines, equipment, or devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, or power tools. Perform routine maintenance, such as inspecting drives, motors, or belts, checking fluid levels, replacing filters, or doing other preventive maintenance actions. Diagnose mechanical problems and determine how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary. Repair machines, equipment, or structures, using tools such as hammers, hobs, saws, drills, wrenches, or equipment such as precision measuring instruments or electrical or electronic testing devices
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools such as cordless power drills power circular saws and pullers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at riche@apexinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 811 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays.
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ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Customer Service Representative - \$9.26 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties may include but not limited to: Confering with customers by phone or in person to provide information about products or services, take or enter orders, cancel accounts, or obtain details of complaints; checking to ensure that appropriate changes were made to resolve customer's problems; keeping records of customer interactions or transactions; customer service or billing complaints by performing activities such as exchanging service, refunding money or adjusting bills, and completing contract forms, preparing documents or issuing service discontinuance orders using computers.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School graduate or GED
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Computer knowledge
- Valid CNMI driver's license

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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(40) Masons 7.57 to 8.25 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Smooth and finish surfaces of poured concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters, patch voids and use saws to cut expansion joints. Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed. Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them. Spread, level, and finish concrete surfaces. Locate and mark out areas that could be damaged or stained by work processes. Erect scaffolding. Fill cracks or breaks in surfaces of plaster articles or areas with putty or epoxy compounds.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school Graduate;
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
THREE (3) Mason \$7.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Mix, spread, level and smooth cement or other concrete mixes using various or power tools to construct or make repairs to various structures. Layer or install building materials such as bricks, hollow blocks, tiles or other materials require use of cement or other related mixes. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: At least Three (3) months experience as Mason is required.
All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) Carpenter \$20.34 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Build, install and repair structures, fixtures, furniture and other items using different types of materials including wood and steel. Use various hand tools and power tools required to accomplish assigned tasks. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma is required. At least 12 months experience as Carpenter is required
All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net
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APEX BUILDERS, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Two (02) Mechanics 7.98 per hour plus 1.5 OT Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 PM
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system, test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 24 months experience.
- Knowledge in using hand, power tools and tester.

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ITS CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) Heavy Equipment Operators - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties may include but not limited to: Operating and/or tending machinery equipped with scoops, shovels or buckets to excavate and load loose materials. These machinery may include excavators, backhoes, compactors and bulldozers. Moving levers, depressing foot pedals, and turning dials to operate power machinery. Setting up or inspecting equipment prior to operation. Observing hand signals, grade stakes or other markings. When operating machines so that work can be performed to specifications. Operates machinery to perform activities such as back filling, excavations, vibrating or breaking rocks or concrete.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate
- Minimum 12 months experience
- Knowledge in operating heavy equipment

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GPCC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(03) Painter Helper 10.83 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Help painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or stucco masons by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas and equipment. Perform support duties to assist painters, paperhangers, plasterers, or masons. Apply protective coverings, such as masking tape, to articles or areas that could be damaged or stained by work processes. Erect scaffolding. Fill cracks or breaks in surfaces of plaster articles or areas with putty or epoxy compounds.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High school Graduate;
- At least 03 months experience
- Knowledge in painting works.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site -marianaslabor.net.
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
TWELVE (12) Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver \$8.11 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Drive a tractor-trailer combination or heavy truck. Required to unload truck. Check vehicles to ensure that mechanical, safety and emergency equipment is in good working order. Follow appropriate safety procedures for transporting goods. Inspect loads to ensure that cargo is secure. Secure cargo for transport using ropes, blocks, chain, binders or covers.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: At least 1 year experience as Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Driver is required
All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
ONE (1) Civil Engineering Technician \$14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm
DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications using Autocad. Prepare reports and document project activities and data. Inspect project site and evaluate contractor work to detect design malfunctions and ensure conformance to design specifications and applicable codes. Develop plans and estimate costs for installation of systems, utilization of facilities, or construction of structures. Perform other related duties as assigned.
DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS: Associate Degree in Engineering is required. At least 24 months experience is required
All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor web site - marianaslabor.net
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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Dodgers beat Giants, near NL West title



LOS ANGELES (AP) —

The Dodgers are on the verge of another runaway division title, and still there was anxiety Sunday.

Matt Beaty homered to end a 12-inning scoreless streak, Corey Seager also connected and Los Angeles beat the San Francisco Giants 5-0 to reduce their magic number to clinch the NL West to two.

“Getting us on the board was a sigh of relief a little bit,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “It’s just one of those things that we haven’t been putting hits together, and so with two outs to get a walk and put a crooked number on the board, and to get a lead, was a good thing.”

The Dodgers (93-52) can lock up their seventh consecutive division title Tuesday at Baltimore when they open a three-game series.

After Beaty’s two-out, two-run homer in the fourth inning, Corey Seager added a three-run shot in the fifth as the Dodgers increased their NL-record homer total to 255. They are 79-33 in games when they hit a home run. This year’s Twins hold the major league record with 274 homers.

Kenta Maeda (9-8) replaced Julio Urias after two innings and threw four innings of dominant relief, retiring his first 10 batters.

Reds 4, Diamondbacks 3

In Cincinnati, relief pitcher Michael Lorenzen lined a game-ending, pinch-hit double in the ninth inning to lift the Reds over the Diamondbacks.

Lorenzen became the first Cincinnati pitcher with a walk-off hit since Randy Keisler in May 2005. It was Lorenzen’s fifth career pinch hit and occurred four days after the reliever became the first player since Babe Ruth in 1921 to homer, play the outfield and earn a victory on the mound in the same game.

Pinch-hitter José Peraza and Phillip Ervin singled with one out off Yoan López (2-6) before Lorenzen delivered against T.J. McFarland.

Indians 5, Twins 2

In Minnesota, Mike Clevinger (11-2) allowed two runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings to win his 10th straight decision.

Brad Hand pitched around a walk and a hit batter in the ninth for his 34th save.

Franmil Reyes hit a two-run single in the second off Randy Dobnak (0-1). Carlos Santana homered against Devin Smeltzer in the third and Francisco Lindor went deep in the fifth for a 4-1 lead.



Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman Gavin Lux, left, throws to first after forcing out San Francisco Giants' Mike Yastrzemski during the second inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019. Jaylin Davis was safe at first base.

The game took 4 hours, 29 minutes—a minute short of matching the longest nine-inning game in NL history.

Brewers 8, Cubs 5

In Milwaukee, Tyler Austin drove a pinch-hit, three-run homer during the a five-run fourth against Jon Lester (12-10), and the Brewers pulled within two games of the Cubs.

Staked to a 3-1 lead, Lester (12-10) allowed RBI hits to Ryan Braun and Hernan Perez before Austin’s fourth pinch homer this season.

Astros 21, Mariners 1

In Houston, Gerrit Cole (16-5) celebrated his 29th birthday by allowing one hit with 15 strikeouts in a season-high eight innings and winning his 12th straight decision. He joined Pedro Martinez as the only pitchers in major league history with 14 or more strikeouts in three straight games.

Marlins 9, Royals 0

In Miami, Sandy Alcantara (5-12) threw a four-hitter and became the first Marlins pitcher with two shutouts in his rookie season since Dontrelle Willis in 2003.

Starlin Castro hit his 18th home run and drove in two runs.

Mike Montgomery (3-8) allowed five runs and eight hits in four innings.

Rangers 10, Orioles 4

Rookie Nick Solak had three hits and four RBIs, Ronald Guzmán and Rowned Odor homered and Texas completed its first four-game sweep at Baltimore since July 1972 at Memorial Stadium.

Playing in his 19th big league game, Solak has six RBIs against Baltimore and five against everyone else.

White Sox, Angels 1

In Chicago, Danny Mendick hit his first career home run and José Abreu got his 31st this season.

Mendick, Matt Skole and James McCann had two hits apiece for the White Sox, who avoided a three-game sweep.

Padres 2, Rockies 1

In San Diego, Wil Myers singled off Yency Almonte with one out in the 10th to drive in Manny Machado, who walked against Jesús Tinoco (0-2).

Craig Stammen (8-7) pitched a perfect 10th for the win.

Rays 8, Blue Jays 3

In St. Petersburg, Tyler Glasnow struck out five over two innings in his return from a four-month layoff caused by a strained right forearm. Tampa Bay’s four-game sweep left the Blue Jays as the fifth major league team on pace to lose 100 games.

Austin Meadows and Avisail García homered for the Rays, who remained one game ahead of Oakland for the top AL wild card.

Yankees 10, Red Sox 5

In Boston, Gleyber Torres, Mike Tauchman, Aaron Judge hit home runs as New York broke the franchise record for homers in a season in a win

over the Red Sox.

The Yankees won for the fourth time in five games and improved to 94-50, keeping pace with Houston for the top record in the majors.

The Yankees entered the game two homers shy of the club record of 267, set last year.

Athletics 3, Tigers 1

In Oakland, Sean Manaea (1-0) matched his career high by striking out 10 in his second start following shoulder surgery, and the Athletics gave Detroit its first 100-loss season since 2003.

Manaea (1-0) allowed two hits over seven innings and has a 0.75 ERA after two starts. Yusmeiro Petit pitched around

a walk in the eighth and Liam Hendriks threw a perfect ninth for his 19th save, completing a two-hitter.

Cardinals 2, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Jack Flaherty (10-7) scattered five hits over eight innings and struck out 10 to help St. Louis widen its NL Central lead to 4½ games over the second-place Cubs.

Flaherty won for the sixth time in eight starts and dropped his post All-Star break ERA to 0.76. Carlos Martinez worked a perfect ninth for his 19th save. St. Louis has won eight of 11 overall.

Nationals 9, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Max Scherzer (10-

5) won for the first time in two months, Juan Soto homered and Washington stopped the Braves’ nine-game winning streak.

Scherzer (10-5) allowed one run and two hits in six innings with nine strikeouts. He had not gotten a decision in four starts since beating Kansas City on July 6, a span that included nearly a month on the injured list because of a bad back.

Phillies 10, Mets 7

In New York, Maikel Franco, Scott Kingery and Adam Haseley homered as Philadelphia overcame a 3-0 deficit and closed within two games of Chicago for the second NL wild-card spot. The Mets stayed four back of the Cubs.

Red Sox fire president Dombrowski

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Red Sox parted ways Sunday with president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski less than a year after winning the World Series.

Red Sox spokesman Kevin Gregg made the announcement following a 10-5 loss to the New York Yankees that dropped the defending champions 17½ games behind their longtime AL East rivals. Boston, which had won three straight AL East titles, would be eliminated from the division race with a loss in the series finale on Monday night.

A veteran baseball executive who built a World Series champion in Miami and helped the Tigers win two AL pennants, the 63-year-old Dombrowski was brought in

to steady the Red Sox front office in 2015 with the team in the middle of back-to-back last-place finishes.

The Red Sox followed with three straight AL East titles—a first in franchise history, winning a club-record 108 games last season and their fourth World Series since 2004. From the start of Dombrowski’s tenure on Aug. 18, 2015, through the beginning of this season, the Red Sox had posted a major-league best 320-210 (.604) record.

But this year’s team—with largely the same roster as last year’s—has gone 76-67, losing five of their first six games and never really getting back into contention in the division. While Dombrowski stood pat at the trade deadline, with a

wild-card berth still in reach, the ballclub reeled off an eight-game losing streak.

“I just found out, so, surprised and shocked obviously,” said Red Sox manager Alex Cora, who was hired as a rookie manager by Dombrowski before the 2018 season. “Right now, not too much to say. We’ll talk a little bit more tomorrow. But, he gave me a chance to come here and be a big league manager. It’s one of those that they just told me so, I’m not ready to talk about it.”

Right-hander Rick Porcello’s career has been tied to Dombrowski’s as much as any player. Dombrowski was the general manager of the Detroit Tigers when they drafted Porcello in the first

round (27th overall pick) in 2007. Dombrowski traded Porcello to Boston in 2014, before following him in 2015.

Porcello, who took the loss against the Yankees on Sunday, and his teammates learned of the move as the game ended.

“I’m still processing everything, processing myself, too,” Porcello said. “It’s really hard to reflect on it right now. I’ll have potentially a better answer in a couple days but, yeah, you never like to see anybody lose their job over what we’re doing on the field. And unfortunately that’s the case right here.”

“You take lots of guilt with you as a player because you’re the one that can make or break things and that’s the part that hurts me.”

Nadal survives Medvedev for 19th Slam

NEW YORK (AP)—Rafael Nadal's 19th Grand Slam trophy went from inevitable to suddenly in doubt in a thrill-a-minute U.S. Open final.

What had all the makings of a casual crowning morphed into a grueling contest thanks to Nadal's opponent, Daniil Medvedev, a man a decade younger and appearing in his first major title match. Down by two sets and a break, Medvedev shifted styles, upped his level against a rattled Nadal—and even received an unexpected boost from the Arthur Ashe Stadium spectators.

Truly tested for the only time in the tournament, the No. 2-seeded Nadal managed

to stop Medvedev's surge Sunday and hold off his historic comeback bid, pulling out a 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 victory in 4 hours, 50 minutes of highlight-worthy action and Broadway-worthy drama to collect his fourth championship at Flushing Meadows.

"One of the most emotional nights of my tennis career," said Nadal, who covered his face with his hands while crying when arena video boards showed clips from each of his Slam triumphs.

"The last three hours of the match have been very, very intense, no?" Nadal said. "Very tough mentally and physically, too."

Now at 19 majors—a to-

US relying on defense so far at World Cup

SHENZHEN, China (AP)—U.S. guard Donovan Mitchell turned toward his bench with fists clenched, then punched the air in celebration and let out a joyous scream.

It wasn't for a dunk, or a 3-pointer, or some highlight-reel play.

Mitchell's exuberant reaction was because the U.S. forced a 24-second violation in a big moment against Greece on Saturday.

The U.S. team at this World Cup is like none other assembled by the Americans for a big international tournament in a long time. This is no scoring juggernaut, but rather a team that has decided its best path to victory—and, it hopes, an unprecedented third consecutive World Cup title—is to clamp down on the defensive end.

"We all love playing defense," U.S. guard Marcus Smart said. "That's the thing. When you've got a team like that, it's not crazy for us. We knew coming in what we could do and hopefully everybody else knows."

Through four games, the unbeaten Americans—who face Brazil on Monday—have held opponents to 36% shooting. And they've given up a total of 98 points in their last two games, the stingiest two-game run by any U.S. men's team in a big tournament since the 1988 Olympics.

"I told them that if they didn't play defense like this, their NBA contracts would be pulled," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich joked.

Popovich, of course, doesn't have the power to jeopardize the \$171,296,102 that the U.S. roster is set to make in the NBA next season. But the Americans are playing as if he does.

And it's largely out of necessity, since the offense just

isn't clicking.

For the first time since the 2004 Olympics, the U.S. is not going to lead a major international tournament in scoring. Unless things pick up on the offensive end, the Americans might finish outside of the top five in scoring at an international event

for the first time since the 1986 world championships—long before NBA players were making up the rosters for such events.

The U.S. is averaging 87 points so far in China, which would be the lowest per-game mark by an American team in an international tournament since the 1998 world championships. And the U.S. field-goal percentage so far at the World Cup (42.5 isn't even in the top half, ranking a dismal 21st in a 32-team field through Sunday's games.

So the defense matters, big-time.

"That's got to be our calling card," U.S. forward Harrison Barnes said. "I think when you look at past USA teams, scoring has not been an issue. There's been a lot of talent. But for us, we know that defense is how we're going to stay in games, how we're going to be able to win and compete. So I think we've done a good job of focusing in on that and that's what's really carrying us right now."

There have been 12 instances so far in this World Cup of a team scoring at least 100 points, 34 instances of a team shooting at least 50% in a game and 42 instances of a team shooting at least 40% from 3-point range. And in all those cases, none of those benchmarks has been reached by the U.S.

In order, the Americans have shot 49, 35, 48 and 36% — yet are still 4-0.



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, reacts after scoring a point against Daniil Medvedev, of Russia, during the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019, in New York.

lian Open, and the 20-19 gap between Federer and Nadal is the closest it's been in 15 years. Federer led 1-0 after his breakthrough triumph at the All England Club in 2003, and he had four by the time Nadal got his first at Roland Garros in 2005.

Federer, who lost in the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open, is 38, while Nadal is 33—making him the oldest male champion at Flushing Meadows since 1970. He's also the first man to win five majors after turning 30.

Nadal says he wants to finish his career at No. 1 in the Grand Slam standings—ahead of Federer and Novak Djokovic, looming in third place currently with 16—but also insists he won't base his happiness on how it all shakes out in the end.

This particular match ended the way he wanted it to. The journey just took more detours than anyone could have anticipated.

It also, Nadal said, made "this day unforgettable, part of my history."

When the 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) Medvedev sensed the loss approaching, he turned into a trickier foe, playing less defensively and more aggressively. He alternated serve-and-volley rushes with a penchant for out-hitting Nadal at the baseline. For a stretch, it felt as if Medvedev simply could not miss, and he finished with a 75-62 edge in winners.

That's the sort of ball-striking Medvedev displayed while going 20-2 during the North American hard-court circuit until Sunday, reaching four finals in a row. But he also switched tactics, winning 22 of 29 serve-and-volley points.

"The way that he was able to fight, to change the rhythm of the match, was just incredible," Nadal said.

The Flushing Meadows fans that jeered Medvedev in Week 1 because of his on-court behavior—he trolled his detractors by sarcastically thanking them and telling him their vitriol was why he won—were pulling for him.

Or, as he noted during the trophy ceremony, pulling for more bang for the bucks they spent on tickets.

They certainly got that.

"I'll definitely remember it," Medvedev said, "even when I'm, like, 70 years old."

tal Medvedev called "outrageous"—Nadal is merely one away from rival Roger Federer's record for men.

But this one did not come easily. Not at all.

Sure seemed it might, with Nadal ahead by two sets and a break in the third at 3-2, playing like "a beast out there," as the No. 5-seeded Medvedev put it.

At that moment, Medvedev would joke afterward, this is where his thoughts were: "OK, in 20 minutes I have to give a speech. What do I say?"

But the 23-year-old from Russia did not go gently into the night. He broke right back to 3-all, then again to claim that set and yet again to end the fourth.

"The nerves were so high," Nadal said. "A crazy match."

Not since 1949 has anyone won a U.S. Open final after trailing by two sets to none. Never before had Medvedev won a five-set match. Only once before had Nadal lost a Grand Slam match after taking the opening two sets.

And yet the tension was real.

At the very end—or what appeared to be the very end—Nadal couldn't close it out. After breaking to lead 3-2 in the fifth, in a game Medvedev led 40-love before flubbing an easy forehand, Nadal broke again and served for the championship at 5-2.

The way this back-and-forth tale was spun, though, it probably was inevitable

that Medvedev would break there. And so he did, because Nadal double-faulted on break point after he was docked a serve for his third time violation of the evening, which elicited loud boos from folks in the stands.

In the next game, Nadal held a pair of match points, but Medvedev, of course, avoided defeat yet another time, erasing one of those with a backhand winner, the other with a service winner, earning a standing ovation.

With Nadal's backers screaming, "Close it out!" at the ensuing changeover, he

once more stepped to the baseline to try to serve it out, this time at 5-4. Naturally, he was forced to deal with another heart-in-throat break point, but came up with a stinging forehand that drew a long forehand from Medvedev.

Two points later, it was over, and the indefatigable Nadal was splayed on his back on the court, as he's been so often at the

conclusion of energy-sapping, will-challenging, high-stakes matches.

"What he went through during the match and still being able to survive and finish the match that way, it's out of this world," said one of Nadal's coaches, Carlos Moya. "You have to be, mentally, a genius. He's still there, still fighting and turning things around when things look really bad. He was able to do that today."

Add the Spaniard's haul in New York to his 12 titles at the French Open, two at Wimbledon and one at the Austra-



Patriots open season with rout of Steelers



FOXBOROUGH, Mass.
(AP) — The New England Patriots

trolled the Pittsburgh Steelers on Saturday and then blew them out Sunday night.

A day after the acquiring former Steelers malcontent Antonio Brown, the reigning Super Bowl champions showed they might not even need him, getting 341 yards and three touchdown passes from 42-year-old Tom Brady to beat Pittsburgh 33-3.

"Well, he's the best in the world," Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said. "There's a reason he's the best when he's out there doing his thing."

Phillip Dorsett caught two touchdown passes, including a 58-yard score, and Josh Gordon — another receiver who wore out his welcome elsewhere — caught one TD pass. On the night New England unveiled its sixth NFL championship banner, Super Bowl MVP Julian Edelman caught six passes for 83 yards and also completed a throw to help the Patriots begin their title defense.

No one has won back-to-back NFL titles since New England did it in 2003 and '04.

"We were so locked in on the moment. We were locked in because we knew of the expectations," defensive back Duron Harmon said. "We knew that when we had the opportunity to play the Steelers, on opening night, with the banner raising, we were going to do everything possible to prepare the right way."

Facing the last team to beat them, back in Week 15 last year, the Patriots opened a 20-0 lead before Pittsburgh kicked a field goal on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with 10:17 left in the third quarter. Brady responded with a 58-yard touchdown pass to Dorsett and a 27-3 lead.

Dorsett had four catches for 95 yards and the first multi-score game of his career. He will be moving down the depth chart Monday when the Patriots are expected to make Brown's signing official.

"He's a playmaker," Edelman said. "The more playmakers you have, the more dynamic we can be."

The move couldn't be welcome in Pittsburgh. Unable to get Brown to behave, the Steelers refused to trade the disgruntled diva to New England only to see him wind up with the team that has reached the AFC championship game eight straight seasons.

"Whatever," Roethlisberger said.

"Didn't spend a lot of time thinking about it or dwell-



ing on it," said Steelers coach Mike Tomlin. "I'm not specifically worried about anything relative to Antonio Brown."

Cardinals 27, Lions 27, OT

Matt Prater made a 33-yard field goal with 3:48 remaining in overtime to help Detroit salvage a tie with Arizona, which overcame an 18-point fourth-quarter deficit in Glendale, Ariz. Prater's field goal capped a 60-yard drive after Zane Gonzalez made a 28-yard field goal, his fourth of the game, on the first possession of overtime for a 27-24 lead, capping the Cardinals' run of 21 straight points.

Arizona rookie quarterback Kyler Murray, the No. 1 pick in the 2019 draft, completed 29 of 54 passes for 308 yards and two touchdowns, both in the fourth quarter when the Cardinals overcame a 24-6 deficit. Arizona had 293 of its 387 yards of total offense in the fourth quarter and overtime after a listless first three quarters.

Chiefs 40, Jaguars 26

Quarterback Patrick Mahomes, the NFL's reigning Most Valuable Player, passed for 378 yards and three touchdowns as Kansas City toppled host Jacksonville.

Playing on a heavily wrapped left ankle he sprained in the first quarter, Mahomes drove Kansas City to scores on each of its first seven possessions while going 25 of 33 with no interceptions.

Jacksonville lost its new quarterback, Nick Foles, to

a broken left clavicle in the first quarter. Tyreek Hill, who signed a three-year contract extension with the Chiefs late last week, left in the first quarter with a shoulder injury.

Cowboys 35, Giants 17

Dak Prescott tied a career high with four touchdown passes and threw for 405 yards as Dallas rolled to a season-opening victory over visiting New York.

Prescott completed 25 of 32 passes and produced his second career 400-yard game. Prescott finished 50 yards shy of his career high set against Philadelphia last season.

Prescott also set a Cowboys passing yardage record for a season opener, breaking the mark held by Troy Aikman. Prescott threw touchdowns to tight ends Blake Jarwin and Jason Witten and then connected with Amari Cooper and Randall Cobb.

Chargers 30, Colts 24, OT

Austin Ekeler's third touchdown of the day, a 7-yard run with 5:01 left in overtime, lifted Los Angeles to a season-opening win over Indianapolis in Carson, Calif.

Starting in place of holdout Melvin Gordon, Ekeler rushed for 58 yards on 12 carries while catching six passes for 96 yards and two scores. Veteran quarterback Philip Rivers hit on 25 of 34 passes for 333 yards and three touchdowns with one interception.

Indianapolis forced overtime with 38 seconds left on a

19-yard touchdown pass from Jacoby Brissett to T.Y. Hilton, followed by a 2-point conversion run from Marlon Mack.

Ravens 59, Dolphins 10

Lamar Jackson tied a franchise record with five touchdown passes as Baltimore routed host Miami.

Jackson, who led all NFL quarterbacks last year with 695 rushing yards in just seven starts, spent the offseason working on his passing, and it was evident on Sunday. He completed 17 of 20 attempts for 324 yards with no interceptions.

Thanks in part to Jackson, the Ravens also set a franchise record for most points in one game. Baltimore tied for the second-most points ever in an NFL season opener, trailing the 1973 Atlanta Falcons (62).

49ers 31, Buccaneers 17

Visiting San Francisco returned two interceptions for touchdowns, and Jimmy Garoppolo passed for another as the 49ers defeated Tampa Bay.

Richard Sherman and Ahkello Witherspoon scored the Niners' touchdowns on defense after both intercepted Bucs quarterback Jameis Winston. San Francisco recorded two interceptions on defense all of last season, setting a historic NFL low.

Garoppolo completed 18 of 27 passes for 166 yards in his first start since Week 3 of the 2018 campaign, when he sustained a season-ending ACL injury.

Eagles 32, Redskins 27

Carson Wentz threw three touchdown passes and rallied host Philadelphia from an early 17-point deficit for a win over Washington.

Wentz was 28 of 39 for 313 yards with a pair of 50-plus touchdown passes to DeSean Jackson. It was Wentz's first game in nine months while he recovered from a stress fracture in his back. Jackson had eight catches for 154 yards.

Case Keenum finished 30 of 44 for 380 yards and three touchdown passes in his first start for the Redskins.

Vikings 28, Falcons 12

Dalvin Cook ran for 111 yards with two touchdowns and safety Anthony Harris recorded two interceptions and recovered a fumble as Minnesota rolled past visiting Atlanta in Minneapolis.

Kirk Cousins (8 for 10, 98 yards) threw for a touchdown and ran for another as the Vikings scored TDs on three of their first four possessions. Minnesota recorded all of its points off three Atlanta turnovers and a blocked punt.

Cook, limited to 15 games over his first two seasons because of injuries, ran the ball 21 times and had 53 yards on his first three carries. The Vikings, who averaged 93.3 rushing yards in 2018, had more than 100 on the ground in the first half and 172 for the game.

Seahawks 21, Bengals 20

Russell Wilson hit Tyler Lockett with a 44-yard touch-

down pass on the first play of the fourth quarter and Seattle held on to defeat visiting Cincinnati.

Cincinnati's Andy Dalton completed 35 of 51 passes for 418 yards, a franchise record for a season opener, with two touchdowns. But the Bengals weren't able to get past midfield in their last two possessions.

Wilson completed 14 of 20 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns as the Seahawks won despite being outgained 429 yards to 233 in total yardage.

Rams 30, Panthers 27

Malcolm Brown scored on a pair of short touchdown runs, and the defending NFC champions overcame some missed scoring chances to defeat Carolina in Charlotte.

Rams quarterback Jared Goff was 23 for 39 for 186 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Panthers quarterback Cam Newton completed 25 of 38 passes for 239 yards and an interception.

Alex Armah's 1-yard plunge allowed the Panthers to pull within 30-27 at the 1:58 mark. But with only one timeout remaining, Carolina didn't get another possession after the Rams recovered an onside kick.

Bills 17, Jets 16

Josh Allen overcame a four-turnover performance to rush for a touchdown and throw for another in the fourth quarter as Buffalo rallied past New York in East Rutherford, N.J.

Allen scored from 3 yards out to trim New York's lead to 16-10 early in the fourth quarter before his underthrown ball was reeled in by John Brown for a 38-yard touchdown with three minutes to play. Allen finished 24 of 37 for 254 yards passing.

Titans 43, Browns 13

Marcus Mariota threw for three touchdowns, Derrick Henry scored twice and visiting Tennessee clamped down on error-prone Cleveland.

Mariota completed 14 of 24 passes for 248 yards, hitting all six of his second half passes for 143 yards. He broke the game open in the fourth quarter with scoring strikes of 11 and 7 yards to tight end Delanie Walker about 3 1/2 minutes apart.

AP

Max's Restaurant, Mawati top foes

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



Max's Restaurant overpowered Light & Salt 68-61, while Mawati defeated Connie's BBQ, 65-62, in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League over the weekend at the Civic Center Court.

Max's Restaurant recovered from a poor start last Friday and went all out in the fourth quarter to steal the win from Light & Salt. Max's scored only 9 points in the first period and made up for it after firing 28 in the last canto.

Ogie Herrera carried Max's on his shoulders in the fourth quarter, as he scored 13 points in the pivotal frame off multiple 3-pointers and free throws.

Herrera exchanged baskets with Rommel Usi, who

tried to keep Light & Salt in the lead in the fourth quarter, but failed. Usi scored 12 of his team's 18 markers in the final period.

In last Saturday's lone completed game, Mawati prevailed in a neck-and-neck duel against Connie's BBQ.

Mawati clung to a 61-60 lead, with under a minute left in the close game, and hung on in the end, thanks to the free throws of Frank Ferrer and Raymond Velasco and a field goal from Jerome Reyes.

Connie's BBQ faltered in the tight match, as only Kerwin Dayao scored for the squad after they moved within one.

Mawati managed to escape with the win despite squandering an 11-point lead in the first quarter, 24-13. Kevin Rejano buried three triples in the opening quarter to give Mawati the double-digit lead. However, Connie's BBQ fought back and

kept its foe within striking distance, as Ronald Esmores and Darwin Barbo teamed up in the second and third quarters.

Friday Game

Max's Restaurant 68—Herrera 19, Paynor 19, Salalila 14, Lerio 9, Tibayan 4, Loyola 2, Flores 1.

Light & Salt 61—R. Usi 18, Natividad 15, M. Usi 9, Pineda 6, Claveria 6, Obnimaga 5, Laxamana 2, Embile 2.

Scoring by quarters: 9-14, 26-30, 40-44, 68-61

Saturday Game

Mawati 65—Rejano 11, Directo 8, Gontar 8, Velasco 8, Ferrer 8, Reyes 7, Avila 4, Rena 4, Nonato 4, Enriquez 2.

Connie's BBQ 62—Esmores 14, Barbo 14, Centina 11, Danao 9, Dayao 7, Bongavan 6.

Scoring by quarters: 24-13, 36-29, 55-47, 65-62.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Mawati's Frank Ferrer drives against Connie's BBQ's Buboy Centina during their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Court.

Divac leads Class of 2019 into Basketball Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Jack Sikma used his Basketball Hall of Fame induction speech to make a plea for the NBA to return to Seattle, where he led the SuperSonics to the 1979 NBA title.

It was the only title for the franchise that moved to Oklahoma City in 2008.

"There's a hole in Seattle that needs to be filled," Sikma said to a crowd that included NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and many other league executives. "Speaking for all Sonics fans, it's our greatest hope that the NBA will soon find a pathway to bring basketball back to Seattle."

"It's time."



Sikma was joined in the Class of 2019 on Friday night by Vlade Divac, Sidney Moncrief, Paul Westphal, Bobby Jones, Al Attles and Teresa Weatherspoon. Chuck Cooper and Carl Braun were inducted posthumously, and Bill Fitch was unable to attend for health reasons.

Also honored at Springfield's Symphony Hall were the 1957-59 teams from Tennessee A&I, a historically black school that won three straight NAIA titles a decade before Texas Western fielded the first all-black starting five in the NCAA Tournament.

The Hutcherson Flying

Queens from Wayland Baptist—the first school to offer women's basketball scholarships—were also inducted. Sponsored by a local aircraft company, they won a record 131 consecutive games in the 1950s.

Sikma had a large contingent to support him, and they broke into laughter when the video screens showed a picture of him with a blonde bowl cut shortly after he was drafted in 1977. A seven-time All-Star in nine seasons with the Sonics, he also played five years with the Milwaukee Bucks and remains the only center in league history to lead the league in free throw percentage for a season (.922 in 1987-88).

GRANT

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our FEMA funding" he said.

Rangamar added that they are working on trying to get some of the track surface repaired as part of the mayor's project.

"We're trying to see if we can include some of the surface that was damaged during the typhoon (Yutu) and I guess

they're checking contractors to get quotations," he said.

In terms of FEMA renovations, Rangamar said "It looks like it's not going to start until sometime next year."

Repair work at the Oleai Sports Complex is needed, as Saipan will be hosting the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. The facility was originally scheduled to undergo renovation last year after sustaining dam-

age from Soudelor in 2015. However, just months before the renovation started, Yutu came, causing more destruction to the complex.

Besides the track facility, the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, restroom, weight room, and fence will undergo improvement.

SPC

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ers list and topped the men's masters division after completing the race in 19:51. Jun Hashimoto and Raymund Tolentino rounded out the Top 3 after posting 22:47 and 25:10, respectively.

In the women's masters division, Ayano Braxton was the champion after recording 19:51, while Sheila Isla (32:46) came in at second and Ana Hilario (54:52) finished third.

For the open division, JC Libut and Kathleen Tolentino led

the finishers list. Libut rounded out the course in 34:59, while Tolentino posted 29:29. Lionel Sanchez (35:37) and Lyle Andrew (56:27) completed the Top 3 in the men's, while Karen Joy Bahatan (30:46) and Diane Mallori (33:15) joined Tolentino in the women's podium.

In the kids division, Tyler and Jaden Andrew had a 1-2 finish after timing in at 43:00 and 56:28, respectively.

SPC would like to thank all the sponsors for their support and the club members for making the event successful.

"We would like to thank

the TanSiu Lin Foundation for their generous donation of shirts and Robin Sapong of the Northern Marianas Athletics for helping us with the timekeeping/record. We also want to thank our families and friends and all those who come out to take part in our first event. Lastly, I want to extend my appreciation to all our SPC members who put in time and a lot of work to make this fun and a successful event," Justin Andrew said.

The club will be competing in the Micro Cup next month in Palau.

Volleyball league kicks off tomorrow



The Avengers Volleyball League is set to begin tomorrow at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Volleyball Club organizes the league, which will run until Oct. 18. Games will have an Avengers-inspired theme to celebrate the month of September, which is usually associated with

Labor Day and every day heroes, while the month of October is associated with Halloween and costumes.

The league follows a co-ed format and each team must pay the \$100 registration fees. The league will use a men's net and each team must have a female player on the court at all times. Each squad is allowed to have as much as 8

players on its roster, while the league will only accept the first 12 teams to register.

For additional information, contact Shawn Davis at 483-9505, Ryan Camacho at rycamacho12@gmail.com, or contact Mike Omar at 285-6892.

Games will be held every Wednesday and Friday from 6pm to 9:30pm. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

SAIPAN

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ples, Saipan Vegas drew one apiece from Atan and Douglas Schmidt, while Bridge Capital made only one shot from the parking lot, courtesy of Freddie Pelisamen.

After the so-so start, Bridge Capital's offense improved in the second quarter, as Matt Duenas got some help from his teammates. However, Bridge Capital had problems defending Coby Santos, who took over from Basa and delivered 11 points in the second frame to keep Saipan Vegas in front at the break, 52-38.

Santos slowed down in the third quarter, as he made only one field goal in the penultimate canto. However, Basa, who had limited minutes in

the second quarter, showed up anew in the third and added two more triples, allowing Saipan Vegas to retain the double-digit spread, 70-55. Six other Saipan Vegas players also scored in the third period for the squad's 15-point lead, heading into the last 10 minutes of play.

With only one quarter left and Bridge Capital in danger of absorbing another loss, it made its move in the payoff canto and rallied. Leroy Rangamar and Pelisamen teamed up in Bridge Capital's comeback bid with the former hitting four triples and the latter drilling 7 points. However, Bridge Capital fell short and Saipan Vegas settled for the 4-point victory.

Santos led four Saipan Vegas players in double figures with his 18 points. Basa con-

tributed 17, while Atan had 11, and Schmidt finished with 10 and had a triple double, as he also recorded 10 assists and 11 rebounds.

Pelisamen and Matt Duenas top-scored for Bridge Capital with 18 points each, but the latter struggled in the second half after registering only three field goals.

Saipan Vegas 88—Santos 18, P. Basa 17, Atan 11, Schmidt 10, Bondoc 6, Lizama 6, Onopwy 4, Rabauliman 4, Sablan 4, Deleon Guerrero 4, E. Basa 2.

Bridge Capital 84—M. Duenas 18, Pelisamen 18, Rangamar 12, Santos 11, Lizama 6, Cabaltica 5, E. Duenas 4, Rogolifo 4, Teregeyo 4, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-15, 52-38, 70-55, 88-84.



Nadal survives
Medvedev for
19th Slam

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Patriots open
season with
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Vegas gains share of lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Vegas' Douglas Schmidt, center, beats Bridge Capital's Austin Camacho in the rebound play during their game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas joined IT&E and The Game on top of the team standings in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League following an 88-84 win over Bridge Capital last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Saipan Vegas had a jack-rabbit start to notch its second victory in as many games and force a three-way tie for the early lead in the 10-team field, while Bridge Capital has yet to make it to the win column after two matches.



A 31-point explosion in the first quarter handed Saipan Vegas the early double-figure lead and made Bridge Capital play catch-up all night. Preston Basa was on target from downtown in the first quarter, as he knocked in three

triples and finished the period with 11 points. Aiferson Atan added 9, while Jack Lizama chipped in 6 in his first game in the league to lift Saipan Vegas to a 31-15 advantage.

Besides Basa's three tri-

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Grant available for restoration of track lights



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Lights at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field will be restored through a block grant.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER



The Saipan Paddling Club raised more than \$600 for its participation in the 2019 Micronesia Cup during the 2019 Sunset 5K Run held last Saturday.

Club president Justin Andrew said the event turned out better than expected, both participation-wise and in terms of fundraising, and he now wants the run to become an annual event for the group.

"The turnout was great. It surpassed our expectations and we are very happy. The club raised over \$600. We want to make this an annual event. It's the club's way of promoting healthy lifestyle for all, including our friends and families, who do not do paddling," he said.

The run featured three divisions: masters (40 and

SPC raises over \$600 for Micro Cup



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Runners head out to the course during last Saturday's 2019 Sunset 5K Run.

above), open (13 to 39), and kids (12 and under). SPC awarded the Top 3 finishers in the male and female divi-

sions in the three categories. The race, which drew over 40 runners, started and ended at Kilili Pavillion with a turn-

around point across Monika's Gallery in Beach Road.

Kosuke Sato led the finish-

See SPC on Page 30

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The lights between the Saipan Mayor's Office and the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility will be repaired through the Community Development Block Grant Program.

During the Northern Marianas Sports Association regular board meeting last Thursday, NMSA president Michael White shared that the Saipan Mayor's Office has informed the board that CDBG would allocate funds to restore the lights that were destroyed after super typhoons Soudebor and Yutu slammed the island. NMSA is the caretaker of the track and other facilities at the complex.

"The [Saipan] Mayor's Office has advised us that we're

going to get a block grant to restore the lights at the track and it's not going to interfere with our FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) repairs," White said.

According to Oleai Sports Complex program coordinator Elias Rangamar, the grant allocated \$200,000 for the lights project and this is separate from the FEMA funding that would cover other repair work at the track facility.

"There's like \$200,000 and they need to use it so I guess they wrote to NMSA. The Mayor is just going to build a few new poles and renovate the existing poles that are not part of the sports complex for lights. They're not going to touch the ones considered as part of the track because that might affect

See GRANT on Page 30